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City Council pursues moratorium on personal short-term rentals

By Michael Reo

The City Council held a meeting May 20 to address many points of business, foremost among them being amended language to zoning ordinance surrounding short-term rentals. The council heard concerns from South Haven residents about the new language and pushed to rewrite the language to be reviewed at a later meeting, but they also voted to pursue a moratorium on personal STRs.

The moratorium, if enacted, would temporarily halt new personal STRs from being made "while research is conducted and a cap is explored." The council pursued the moratorium following a failed motion to establish a cap on personal STRs. The cap — which would've been placed at 101, the current number of personal STRs — failed because of concerns that it might increase hardship on residents that use these rentals to make ends meet.

Council member Wendi Onuki moved to pursue the moratorium as a way to avoid permanently blocking residents from receiving the rentals that could benefit them.

"I'm just not sure that 101 is the right number because of other hardships that could come up for our residents," Onuki said. "I don't want to stop them from getting the relief they need."

The motion passed by a vote of five to seven, with council member George Sleeper and Mayor Annie Brown dissenting. Sleeper said the moratorium was not being done "justice" by being pursued separate from the ordinance change the council was already discussing.

"A moratorium is basically an ordinance change," Sleeper said. "I don't see the purpose of a moratorium. I would rather focus our attention on actually changing the ordinance."

While the moratorium is pursued, the language used in the ordinance will be rewritten to respond to concerns raised by residents and council members at the meeting.

Joe Wilkins, a resident of South Haven, said he would not have had a problem with STRs had a comprehensive ordinance been drafted when it was originally proposed.

"I don't think I would have ever been in opposition against [the ordinance] if we would have came up with some model of overlays somewhere and not in residential areas, swallowing up our community," Wilkins said. "All the hardship stories that I hear about our homeless rates climbing, and it all ties in. You can't separate the two. If we would have handled STRs better out the gate, we probably wouldn't be here, but we didn't."

STRs traditionally raise property values around them, as they present another avenue for investors to profit off of land. Conversely, they make surrounding property less affordable, and as some residents pointed out in the meeting, some STRs neglect the current ordinance rules surrounding parking and the number of occupants an STR can have.

The new ordinance would seek to decrease the number of STRs in three different ways. Clifford Bloom, the attending city attorney, emphasized these to the meeting's attendees.

"Under this proposal. If this is passed, there's no bonus. There's no lottery so it can't go up over [the current amount of STRs]. Second of all, not only is there a cap, but it will ratchet down as people give them up, a house burns, et cetera," Bloom said. "[The new ordinance] would envision more vigorous enforcement."

Tourists return to town ahead of Memorial Day

By Michael Reo

The weather is improving, and as such, summer tourism is returning to South Haven. May marked the first month of the year that temperatures averaged over 70 degrees, and the streets and beaches are crowding once again as a result.

Every year, South Haven sees a population influx of about 15,000, according to MLive. Jen Sistrunk, the executive director of the South Haven Visitors Bureau, attributed this jump in population to the weather.

"Tourism in South Haven is highly dependent on the weather. Warmer temperatures draw people to the lakeshore throughout the year," Sistrunk wrote in a statement. "Traditionally, South Haven experiences its highest visitation in June, July, and August."

Walking up and down Phoenix Street, swaths of newcomers and locals line the streets to enjoy the sights and experiences. Joseph, a South Haven resident, said from a bench overlooking the Black River that he was at the best part of town.

"Look up, right up to town, and you can look to the end of this pier," Joseph said. "This is as good as it gets. It's open to everybody. Not a better place to spend time alongside the water."

Sistrunk also wrote that accessibility was a major differentiator between South Haven and other cities along Lake Michigan.

"South Haven stands out for its accessibility and walkability," Sistrunk wrote. "Once you exit the interstate, you can be downtown in less than five minutes. You can park your car, check into your hotel, eat, shop, and go to the beach without ever needing to get back into your car. This convenience is unique along the lakeshore."

Joseph said he leaves each year during winter but returns in the summer. He said the warm-weather activities and people bring him back to town every year.

"I come to the waterfront every day that I can walk," Joseph said. "South Haven is a friendly place, more friendly than a lot of places that I have visited."

Two parkgoers, Amy and Sondra, echoed that sentiment, praising the town's safety and saying that it was great to see people coming from all different locations.

Meanwhile, Tim, a first-time visitor, said the South Haven Lighthouse brought him to the area.

"This lighthouse makes the news every single year being covered in ice. I want to see this in person," Tim said. "South Haven is very commonly a photogenic coastal city that makes the news on a regular basis, so that's what was interesting to me."

Tim said the town left a good first impression on him: "beautiful and clean."

As Memorial Day approaches, more people are expected to visit South Haven. While some weather reports expect rain at some point over the weekend, the chance of rain currently peaks at 50%.

Whether or not Memorial Day sees sunshine, South Haven also has a plethora of events planned throughout the summer for residents and visitors to take part in. Harborfest, the Festival of Cars and the Queen's Cup sailboat race all take place in June. The Farm Market also opened May 11, and will continue running Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Starting in June, the Farm Market will also be open Wednesdays at the same time.

SHPS host summer enrichment program for fourth year running

By Michael Reo

South Haven Public Schools launched their Summer Enrichment 2024 program May 15, ushering in a wave of new learning opportunities for students of all ages. The program is running for the fourth year in a row after forming in the summer of 2021.

This year, the program is made up of 16 different "camps" that each teach about a different topic, ranging from traveling and art to SAT preparation. Each class varies in schedule and amount of open spaces, but registration to all classes is free.

Some classes are available to children as young as those entering Kindergarten, while other classes are open to soon-to-be high school seniors. Most classes will begin in June, but some will not start until August. All information can be found on SHPS' website.

Sarah Peterson, Baseline Middle School's success coach, previously worked as a chef and will bring that experience to two camps that she will instruct. Her "Food Science" class will use hands-on experiments to teach elementary-level students about food from a STEM perspective. Meanwhile, Peterson's "Cooking Skills Camp" will teach middle and high school students about "cooking skills, menu planning, nutrition and budgeting."

"['Food Science'] is all about combining your STEM and your food, all about acids, edible slime, making pizza from scratch, those really fun [activities]," Peterson said. "For the older kids, I wanted to do something a little different … where they could learn basic budgeting, meal planning [and] how to make things without the microwave."

In contrast to how teaching is done during the school year, Peterson said the more open, "specialized" setting allowed for more free-form learning.

"I can really use some hands-on things that you really can't in a classroom setting, more tailored to the fun side of things," Peterson said. "It's just a really nice way for flexibility between the instructors and the students and the parents."

Becca Teunissen, the secretary to the superintendent and school board, wrote in a statement that SHPS started the program after the pandemic exposed a need for it.

"South Haven has always prioritized providing students with supports during the school year and over the summer," Teunissen wrote. "We've maintained summer school and migrant education along with tutoring, but when the pandemic hit, we noticed a need for something additional."

Using some of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds the federal government provided during the pandemic, Teunissen wrote, SHPS expanded the reach of the Summer Enrichment program, leading to high turnout around its inception. The program served to keep students collaborating in spite of circumstances.

"Summer enrichment classes not only provided learning opportunities, but also served as a way to stay connected," Teunissen wrote.

Peterson emphasized the importance of the program as a place for instructors and students to enjoy their areas of interest.

"I just really like doing these topics," Peterson said. "This is where my passion lies. This is my wheelhouse."

While about three-fourths of Peterson's available spaces in her classes remained open, she said, "I really encourage parents to sign up early," and that they should reach out to instructors if they are not able to secure a spot in a class they want.

Wilcox Newspapers publishes inaugural issue of the Beacon

This newspaper marks the very first issue of the South Haven Beacon, a new community newspaper that is devoted to covering the news, sports, opinions, and issues of the South Haven area.

The publisher, Mike Wilcox, is no stranger to area newspapers. He currently owns the Courier-Leader in Paw Paw, the Commercial Record in Saugatuck, and the Paw Paw Flashes, which has been distributed in South Haven for decades. In addition to those, he also owns two more newspapers in Allegan County, three in St. Joseph County, two over near Jackson, two in Northern Michigan, and one in Alabama.

"As a former resident of Pullman, and owner of the Paw Paw and Saugatuck/Douglas newspapers, I've seen the news coverage in South Haven, and I think it can be better.," said Wilcox. "I think the South Haven Beacon will work nicely to provide better journalism, as well as a more regionalized offering to new and existing readers in the area.

The Beacon will be published every Thursday from Wilcox Newspapers' Allegan office and share much of its staff and resources with the Courier-Leader.

It will be distributed to nearly 150 businesses in South Haven, Bangor, Breedsville, Covert, Glenn, Grand Junction, and Pullman, for anyone to pick up free of charge. An online E-Edition, with accompanying email subscription, will also be available for a nominal fee, and its news content will posted online at https://wilcoxnewspapers.com.

Featured writers will include longtime Courier-Leader writer, Paul Garrod, newcomer Michael Reo, as well as several other familiar faces.

The Beacon belongs to and is devoted to the interests of the South Haven area – nowhere else. With that as our guiding principle, we plan to provide the best possible newspaper for the people of this community; and we hope that over time, you, and other members of the community will look to us with admiration and respect.

If you have any questions, suggestions, comments, or just feel like reaching out, you can give us a call at 269-657-3072, or email us at info@pawpawflashes.com.

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Wilcox Newspapers, publishers of the South Haven Beacon, also own the Paw Paw Flashes, the Courier-Leader, and the Saugatuck/Douglas Commercial-Record

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Obituaries

Ronald Leroy Nagy

Ronald Leroy Nagy, of Punta Gorda, FL, passed away after a short illness, July 6, 2023, at Shore Point Health Center, Punta Gorda, FL. Ronald was born July 22, 1937, in Elkhart, Indiana. He was the second of three boys born to Alex and Pearl Nagy.

After graduating from Elkhart Central High School, Ron enlisted in the United States Navy. He performed this duty and was honorably discharged in 1958. After discharge, he met his future wife, (Judy Krizman) and they were married in South Bend, Indiana, in October of 1960. Ron and Judy made Elkhart their home where they raised their two boys (Doug and Darrin).

Ron began working as a quality control specialist for a few companies, relocating several times before settling down in Paw Paw, in 1972. It was during this time that Ron began working for Shakespeare Manufacturing, Kalamazoo, while watching his boys grow up and became active in several activities. Ronald was always involved in the boys' activities and assisted whenever he could. In 1986, Ron and Judy left Paw Paw and relocated to Punta Gorda, FL, where he would retire from his career in 1998. Ron was a member of Saint Mary's Parish, Paw Paw, as well as St. Charles Borromeo, Port Charlotte, FL. Ron enjoyed watching his grandchildren participate in their sports activities and traveling to tournaments across the country.

Ronald was preceded in death by his wife, Judy, in 2022.

He is survived by his two boys, Douglas (Lisa) Nagy of Port Charlotte, FL and Darrin (Michele) Nagy of Scotts, MI. Also, four grandchildren, (Stephen and Scott of Port Charlotte, FL and Darrin James II and Loren of Scotts, MI); along with many friends and neighbors.

A Memorial Mass will be held Thursday, June 27, 2024, at 11 a.m. at Saint Mary Catholic Church, Paw Paw. Ron will be placed to rest at Saint Mary Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the American Cancer Society or St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. Share a memory or sign the online tribute wall at:www.adamspawpaw.com.

Catherine Ruth Harrell

Catherine Ruth Harrell, 69, of Kalamazoo, passed away peacefully, Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at her home in Kalamazoo. She was born Feb. 9, 1955, in Paw Paw, the daughter of Stephen Diljak and Norma (Brown) Diljak.

As the oldest daughter, she took on the role of helping raise her siblings while her parents worked long hours to provide for them. Catherine dedicated many years to the Townships of Oshtemo and Comstock as a property assessor. She also worked at Humphrey Products, where she made lifelong friends and travel buddies. They loved traveling around the world for new adventures.

She had many talents, including crafting, cooking, quilting, and sewing. She enjoyed finding new recipes and making them, and they were always delicious. Catherine was also an avid reader, and you could often find her with a good book in hand. Catherine and her late husband belonged to a group that practiced old frontier traditions and cooking for many years and enjoyed acting and creating their props and outfits for the show. She even had a wedding with them! Catherine held strong to her faith as a Christian and lived life as a strong, independent woman. Above all else, Catherine loved her fur babies, family and friends. She did everything with her fur babies and enjoyed entertaining her family and friends when they came over.

She is survived by her mother, Norma (Brown) Diljak; sisters, Karen (Jamie) Collett and Jean (Jon) Forcade; brothers, Michael and Mark Diljak; nephew, Mike Diljak; nieces, Danielle VanderBerg, Katie Forcade and Libby Forcade; beloved dog, Sammy, and many cousins.

Catherine is preceded in death by her husband, Howard Harrell; father, Stephen Diljak, and sisters, Jayne and Mary Susan Diljak.

Cremation has taken place. Per Catherine's wishes, there will be no public services at this time.

Memorial contributions may be made to the ASPCA of Southwest Michigan or to the Wings of God Transition Home.

Share a memory or sign the online guest book at adamspawpaw.com.

Ruth Ann Armentrout

Ruth Ann Armentrout, age 64, quietly went home to be with her Lord on May 1, 2024 surrounded by loved ones. Born on April 21,1960 in Clare, MI to Donald and Jean Armentrout, Ruth grew up living and working on the family dairy farm. She maintained her "farm girl" strength and work ethic throughout her life.

Ruth graduated from Huntington College with a degree in Business Management and worked as an upper level manager for many retail companies. She was known to be not just an amazing organizer and manager, but also a kind and true friend to her employees and co-workers.

Her happiest moments were being a mom to her twin boys Anthony and Andrew. She will be missed by her surviving family and friends but our faith in Christ gives us the blessed hope of being reunited with her one day.

A graveside memorial service is planned for June 22, 2024 at Cherry Grove Cemetery in Clare at 3:00 pm. Please RSVP to Tracy if you plan to attend at 586-747-1734. There will be a luncheon afterward at the gazebo in Pettit Park in Clare.

In lieu of flowers please feel free to donate to Warriors Choice Foundation at 110 Front Street Suite 300 , Jupiter, FL 33477 or go to www.warriorschoice.org/donate-wcf.

Lena Ann Veldt

Lena Ann Veldt passed away on September 18, 2023 in Grand Rapids after a brief illness.

Lena was born in Paw Paw Hospital on June 25, 1954 to Harm and Virgina (Schaefer) Veldt. As a child, Lena was raised on a farm in Texas Township; she remained in Southwest Michigan when parents and brothers purchased a farm and moved to the Upper Peninsula. During her adult life, Lena had resided in Gobles, Lawrence, Vicksburg, and Paw Paw, with her childhood years spent in Texas Township. Lena attended Mattawan Schools for all of her grade school years though graduation. She worked many years for Quality Farm and Fleet Stores in Portage, in addition to working for The County Post Store in Allegan. She was much appreciated for her knowledge of agriculture and livestock by the many customers of that store.

Lena is survived by two brothers, Calvin (Suzie) and Alvin, both of Sault Ste. Marie, along with two nieces Jessica (Jerry) Peterson and Jenny (Andrew) Lentz. She was preceded in death by her parents, along with her brother Melvin. Lena had a love for her beagle dogs, which she owned many during her life. She also appreciated farm and country life and lived on a farm in Lawrence with her parents for a few years of her adult life.

Cremation has taken place and interment will take place at a future time in Texas Township Cemetery. Lena will be laid to rest with parents, brother, and infant sister

Tribute Wall

Paul Siskaninetz

Paul Siskaninetz, 91, of Lawton, passed away Monday, February 5, 2024 at Rose Arbor in Kalamazoo.

Paul was born March 14, 1932 in Decatur, MI to John and Mary (Forzan) Siskaninetz. Paul attended a two-room school house in East Decatur and transferred to high school where he graduated in 1950. After graduating, he worked at a paper company in Kalamazoo. In 1952, Paul joined the US Navy, serving in the Pacific during the Korean War. He was honorably discharged in 1956. Paul then joined Hydreco as a machinist for 33 years until his retirement.

In 1955, Paul married Betty Zwalua. They resided in Portage where they raised their two daughters, Sandy and Sherri. Paul enjoyed hunting, going to deer camp up north; gardening, and feeding the birds and squirrels in the yard. He took up golf for fun after retiring. Paul was a life member of VFW post 6248 in Decatur.

Paul is survived by his wife of 65 years, Betty Siskaninetz; his daughter, Sherri Kik of Kalamazoo; his grandson, Jeffrey DeMann of Lawton; his granddaughter, Nicole DeMann of Gilbert, AZ; his great grandchildren, Zoey, Molleigh, Darby and Cru; and a special nephew, Nick (Christie) Siskaninetz.

He is preceded in death by his daughter, Sandra DeMann; his son-in-law, Mark Kik; eight sisters, Mary, Anne, Helen, Julia, Katy, Sophie, Martha and Pauline; five brothers, Bill, Frank, John, Nick, and George; a special young man, Anske Zwalua, his foreign exchange student from the Netherlands; and his parents.

A graveside service with military honors will be held at 12pm, Saturday, June 1, 2024 at Lakeside Cemetery, Decatur. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to the VFW Post 6248 Roof Fund, 560 N. Phelps St., Decatur, MI 49045.

Vivian Caroline Polomcak

Vivian Caroline Polomcak, known to most as "Beebee", from Decatur, MI, passed away on Saturday, April 27, 2024 after a short fight with breast cancer; just shy of her 92nd birthday. She was born to Theodore Stanek and Helen Stanek (Godisak) on May 10, 1932 in Decatur, MI.BeeBee's favorite things were the color purple, lavender, playing cards, camping, reading Nicholas Sparks, watching western movies, walking, going to garage sales, antiquing, flea markets, golfing, cooking and dancing. A lot of dancing! Her brother Jim would often be a part of the dancing! During Christmastime, BeeBee and her son-in-law, Michael would make over a hundred perogies for the family to eat.

She was proceeded in death by her parents, Theodore and Helen Stanek (Godisak); her husband, George Polomcak; her significant other, William Kimble; her brother, James Stanek; her sisters, Florence Hunt, and Charlotte Adams; her brother- in- law, Alvin Adams; and her favorite kitty, Smeagle. BeeBee's brother-in-law, John, and sister-in-law, Linda maintained a relationship after her siblings passed away. Victoria Ann Firnstahl, Michael Firnstahl, Theodore John Polomcak, and Claudia Polomcak will miss their mother greatly. The last few years, Beebee lived in walking distance from them and would see them every day.

She will be greatly missed by her grandchildren, Dr. Ryan Firnstahl (Tonia), Kara Zampetis (Dino), Stephanie Polomcak (Christian Annable), and TJ Polomcak. Vivian's great grandchildren will also feel the void that has been left, including Alex Firnstahl, Carlye Firnstahl, Jacob Firnstahl, Aiden Polomcak, Lauren Firnstahl, Anna Zampetis, Evelyn Polomcak, Melina Zampetis, Elizabeth Annable, Ryane Firnstahl, and Kai Annable. Vivian was very close to extended family. She had a special bond with her nieces, Lora Stanek Wilson (Marco), Tina Gennarro Brann (Bobby), Toni Fountain (Greg), and Pamela Sikkema (Todd). She was also close with her late husband, George's family. They were a special part of her life and she always kept in touch after George's death. Her second kitty, Sy, will dearly miss his early morning brushes and feedings from Vivian. Vivian was surrounded by so much love at the end of her journey. She had many, many visitors stopping in to show her how much they loved her. Lora and Tina made special trips from Florida to visit and spend time with her. Special memories were made during "Baba days" where the family would gather together and share dinner and laughs. Everyone was always invited whether you were a close relative or distant cousin.

There will be a luncheon to celebration Vivian's life on Saturday, July 27, 2024 at the Decatur VFW beginning at 3:00 pm. Your presence is welcome at a small graveside service beginning at 2:30pm at Lakeside Cemetery, Decatur, prior to the luncheon.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Centrica/Hospice of Kalamazoo, 7100 Stadium Dr., Kalamazoo, MI 49009 or the VFW Post 6248 Women's Auxiliary, 560 N. Phelps St., Decatur, MI 49045

Shirley Elsie Mae Figg

Shirley Elsie Mae Figg, 93, of Paw Paw, passed away Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at Bronson Methodist Hospital, Kalamazoo. She was born May 9, 1931, in Kalamazoo, Michigan, the daughter of Robert W. Larson and Nina Bell (Cuddeback) Larson.

Shirley was employed at the Van Buren County Abstract Officer for 36 years. She had a strong work ethic and truly loved her job. Shirley also spent many hours in various clubs and organizations within her beloved community. She was a proud member of the Paw Paw Lions and Lioness Clubs for many years. One of her greatest achievements was being a founding member of the Paw Paw Athletic Boosters. Shirley loved helping at sporting events, especially working the concession stand. She was an avid bingo player and often attended the town's bingo nights. Shirley also enjoyed going to the casinos and cooking for her beloved family and friends.

She is survived by her two sons, James (Helen) and Gary (Carla) Figg; daughter, Robin (Mack) Fenstermaker; seven cherished grandchildren, Stephen (Stacy) Figg, Scott (Allie) Figg, Chad (Sarah) Payne, Brock (Jaime) Payne, Laura (Jordan) Wodnisky and Jamie (Chris Davenport) Fenstermaker, Shane Fenstermaker; great-grandchildren, Haley, Jade, Emilia, Stephen, Austin, Josh, Carter, Ian and Mason; great-great grandchildren, River and Hunter; brother, Norman Larson, and sister, Susan Shanahan.

Shirley was preceded in death by her husband, James L. Figg on March 26, 2014, sister, Laurel Ozanich and brothers, Robert W. Larson and Larry Larson.

Family and friends are invited to visit Thursday, June 13, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Adams Funeral Home, 502 W. Michigan Ave., , Paw Paw. A short memorial service will be held at 3:45 p.m. with Tom Shoemaker officiating. Family and friends are invited to gather at the Paw Paw Lions Club immediately following the service for food and fellowship. Shirley will be laid to rest next to James at Fort Custer National Cemetery, Augusta, MI, at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Paw Paw Lions Club or Centrica Care Navigators.

Share a memory or sign the online guestbook at adamspawpaw.com.

Terry L. Wolownik

Terry L. Wolownik,77, passed away May 3, 2024, peacefully at home, surrounded by his beloved wife and daughters in Queen Creek, Arizona.

Terry was preceded in death by his late parents Charlie and June McCauslin, Henrietta (Nanny) Weidner and sister, Kay Gailhouse.

Terry is survived by his loving wife of 33 years, Barbara; and his four children, Karen (Michael) Wolownik, Albert of Gurnee, IL, Sarah (Jeremy) Tilstra of Pittsburgh, PA, Sherri (James) Kerrigan of Mission Viejo, CA, and Terry Bargielski of Torrance, CA.

His legacy will continue through his grandchildren, Kennedy (Braiden) (23), Liam (21), and Kylie (18) Kerrigan; Taylor (16) and Tianna (16) Bargielski; Sydney (14) and Carter (11) Albert; Brandon (13) and Zachary (10) Tilstra; and great-grandchildren, Tanner Lee (2) and Hudson James (9 months).

He is also survived by his sisters, Charlyn Raber of Lawton, and Cathy Cummings of Fairbanks, AK; sister-in-law, Kay (Jerry) Schultz; brother-in-law, Rick (Nancy) Weidner; and many beloved aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

The family is grateful for so many visits, calls, texts, and cards that brightened Terry's last days and surrounded him with love. Truly, our family could not have made it through the last several months without the amazing support of family and dear friends.

Terry was raised in Lawton with his parents and three sisters and graduated from Michigan State University. He spent most of his career working as a materials manager, traveling the world, and eventually settling in Indianapolis, Indiana. Terry returned to Michigan when he and Barbara retired in 2009. Together, they renovated a cottage into a beautiful home on Three Mile Lake in Paw Paw where they enjoyed hosting friends, family and especially their grandchildren. The family has so many happy memories of boating, swimming, fishing, and Terry grilling his famous "Grandpa Burgers" for dinner after long days of playing in the lake.

Terry was a doer, rarely sitting still, and always had his own precise and particular way of completing daily tasks. There was not a home project that Terry couldn't handle. He was always willing to help others and could build or fix just about anything. He spent many hours taking calls from all his children, troubleshooting home appliances, cars, and house disasters. He fostered a culture of learning, had high expectations, and instilled a sense of curiosity, strong work ethic, drive to achieve, and mental fortitude in all of children and grandchildren.

Terry and Barbara found their chosen family in a small golfing community in Queen Creek, Arizona in 2020, affectionately called Encanterra. They soon made this their permanent home and had been blessed with years of great golfing and amazing friendships. The family has found so much comfort in the community of Encanterra over the last several months and greatly appreciate their selflessness and willingness to help at any moment.

Throughout Terry's long battle with lung cancer and its complications, he encountered so many wonderful nurses, physicians, techs, and medical staff that brightened his day. The family would like to thank the staff at the Mayo Clinic in Arizona, the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center, Hospice of the Valley Arizona, and in particular, Drs. Yael Kusne, Timothy Burns, and Heath Skinner. The family would also like to thank the Gilbert Memorial Park staff for their kindness and guidance during the difficult days.

Per his wishes, Terry was cremated. There will be a Celebration of Life service, June 29, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Adams Funeral Home, 502 W. Michigan Ave., Paw Paw.

Please consider donations to Hospice of the Valley in Phoenix, AZ (https://www.hov.org), or a remembrance at your local church.

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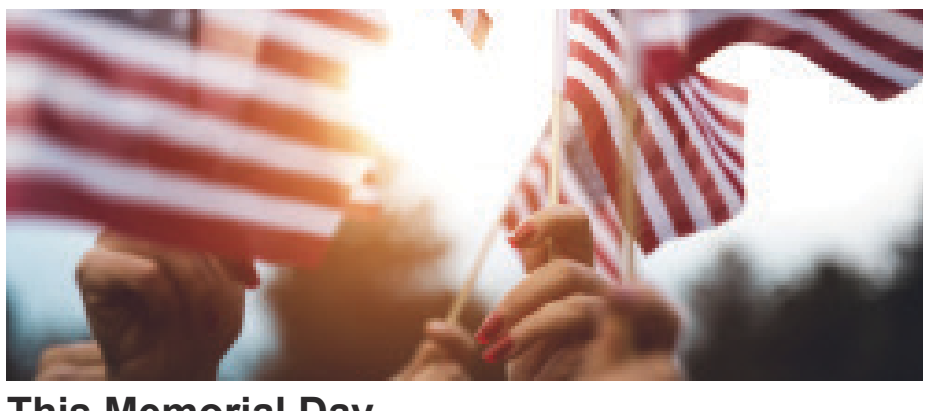

This Memorial Day
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2ND FRONT PAGE

Road Commission seeks county road millage renewal

LAWRENCE - On Aug. 6, Presidential Primary Election ballot, voters will see the County Road Millage renewal request for 0.9721 mills for repairs and improvements to public streets, roads, and avenues in Van Buren County. Citizens of Van Buren County have supported the road millage since 1978 when it was first approved. "This is a testament to the voters' long-standing commitment to invest in Van Buren County's roads," according to a press release from the Van Buren County Road Commission. The millage was last renewed in 2020.

"The County Road Millage Renewal will help not only the Road Commission, but also the cities and villages within Van Buren County to provide a well-developed road network to travel safely to and from work, school, shopping, and entertainment centers. The financial impact of the millage cannot be over-stressed as the Road Commission, and the cities/villages of Bangor, Bloomingdale, Breedsville, Decatur, Gobles, Hartford, Lawrence, Lawton, Mattawan, Paw Paw and South Haven all receive critical road funding through the County Road Millage. In addition, the Road Commission donates a portion of its distribution to each of the 18 Townships for use on their selected road improvement projects," said the press release.

If passed, the County Road Millage renewal will cost the average homeowner approximately $100.000 annually, an average of approximately $8.33 per month, based on a home with a $200,000 market value - $100,000 taxable value.

For more information to better assist county residents in making an informed decision at the August Presidential Primary Election, they are encouraged to contact the Van Buren County Road Commission by phone at (269) 674-8011, or by e-mail at: vbcrc@vbcrc.org. In addition, information regarding the County Road Millage Renewal is available on the Road Commission's website at: https://www.vbcrc.org/millage.

Zack Marcy named new Mattawan High School Athletic Director

New Mattawan Consolidated School Athletic Director

MATTAWAN - Mattawan High School has announced the appointment of Zack Marcy as the school district's new athletic director, effective July 1, 2024, according to a press release from the school district. Marcy brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to developing well-rounded student-athletes to the Mattawan community, according to the press release.

Marcy has a diverse background spanning multiple coaching positions across various sports at different schools, including serving as the Day Camp director at Howell Nature Center, social studies teacher, and assistant athletic director at Lumen Christi Catholic School in Jackson, MI, and as Dean of Students and Athletics at Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic School, according to the press release. It further stated, "Marcy has demonstrated a passion for education and athletics. He holds a B.A. in History Education from Michigan State University and an M.S. in Athletic Administration.

Originally from Grand Blanc, MI, Marcy has spent over a decade in the educational field, coaching a wide array of sports ranging from football, basketball, and baseball to swimming, volleyball, and tennis. His extensive experience as a teacher, coach, and administrator "aligns perfectly with Mattawan High School's vision for its athletic program."

Reflecting on Marcy's appointment, Mattawan High School Principal Kris Simms said, "Zack set himself apart as an enthusiastic educational leader who is committed to building an athletic program founded on the principle of developing well-rounded student-athletes. His message of character development, high expectations in academics and behavior, building respectful citizens, academic and athletic integrity, and community involvement were consistent with our vision for the future of Mattawan student-athletes. Zack has experience as a teacher, coach, athletic director, and dean of students. He is excited to become a part of the Mattawan family and lead our Wildcats into the future."

Marcy emerged as the top choice from over 30 applicants through a rigorous selection process that included three interviews with various teams comprising administrators, teachers, coaches, students, and parents. "His appointment signifies Mattawan High School's commitment to excellence in both academics and athletics," according to the press release.

The press lease concluded, "Zack Marcy is eager to assume his new role and is prepared to contribute his expertise and leadership to further enhance the athletic program at Mattawan High School."

Mining begins on Arlington Twp site

Gravel Mining Preparation begins in Arlington Township

Proposed Gravel Pit Borders Cemetery

Arlington Township Board member Ron Klein was informed this week of an extraction mining operation that has begun on a 54-acre site located at County Road 215 and 42nd Avenue in Arlington Township, located northwest of Lawrence. The site is adjacent to Colburn Cemetery. The companies involved, R. Smith & Sons Trucking, Inc., and Michigan Materials and Aggregates Co. do not have a Special Use Permit from the township to engage in aggregate mining, according to Klein. A non-conforming site plan was submitted one year ago by the parties and was reviewed by two experts for the township who provided the assessments requesting additional information. John Yellich, Director of the Michigan Geological Survey provided information to the township and EGLE regarding groundwater, run off, the nature of the operation and the disposition of soil at the site that had been a commercial orchard since 1948. In photos, the soil is already being removed and stockpiled, while the other photo shows the short distance between the cemetery and the extraction mining operation.

New Kayak Launch opens in South Haven

Phoenix Kayak Launch Ribbon Cutting

SOUTH HAVEN - The South Haven Convention & Visitors Bureau (SHCVB) and the South Haven Area Recreation Authority (SHARA) celebrated the opening of the Phoenix Kayak Launch last week. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held Friday, May 17, to commemorate the grand opening of the launch.

"We're excited for both visitors and locals to enjoy paddling down the Black River this summer," said Jennifer Sistrunk, executive director of the South Haven Convention & Visitors Bureau. "We've been looking forward to seeing this come to life for quite some time and we're delighted that the kayak launch is now open to the public."

The new launch, located at 69237 County Road 388, South Haven, is free to use and ADA-accessible. Kayak rentals and transportation services are available upon request.

"We're grateful to have gotten to collaborate with the CVB and DNR on another great project," said Ross Stein, South Haven Township Supervisor, and chairman of SHARA. "Our partnerships with these two organizations have been invaluable to our work of supporting recreation and community resources in the South Haven community."

The property was gifted to SHARA by the SHCVB in 2017. The project was funded in part by a grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and completed in November of 2023

Chris Moraitis Presents: A Night of Improv at The Lucky Wolf

PAW PAW - The Van Buren Bar Association has announced an evening of entertainment, laughter, and camaraderie as local Attorney Chris Moraitis will take the stage to host an Improv Show at The Lucky Wolf, here.

On May 26, from 6 to 8 p.m., the event "promises to be an unforgettable event filled with spontaneity and wit. Moraitis, known as an up and comer in the Van Buren legal community, is not only known for his legal mind but for his quick wit and entertainment talents. With a passion for both law and entertainment, Moraitis is proud to bring a unique blend of humor and legal insight to the stage," according to a press release.

The Lucky Wolf, known for its vibrant atmosphere and live entertainment, provides the perfect backdrop for an evening of improvisational comedy. Lucky Wolf's intimate setting ensures that every audience member "is up close and personal with the action, making for an immersive experience like no other," according to a press release.

Audience members can expect an evening of unscripted hilarity as talented improvisers (and audience members) take suggestions from the crowd and turn them into comedic gold (or coal)…

But what sets this improv show apart is its unique legal twist. Drawing inspiration from the world of law, Moraitis and his troupe of improvisers will incorporate legal themes, characters, and scenarios into their performances. Whether it's a courtroom drama, a deposition gone awry, or a quirky case of mistaken identity, audiences can expect to see the legal world like never before.

"We wanted to create an event that not only showcases the talent of our local improv community but also highlights the lighter side of the legal profession," said Moraitis. "It's a chance for the community to come together, have some fun, and celebrate the unique intersection of law and comedy."

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SPORTS

Mattawan senior enjoys strong season

Connor O'Rourke is in his junior season at Mattawan.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

MATTAWAN – Connor O'Rourke has had quite as junior season for the Mattawan track team.

He's in the 100, 200, 400 and 4x100.

O'Rourke's best events have been the 100 and the 4x100.

"The 100 I recently ran 11.4, a PR from last year," he said early in the season, my goal from last year is to be 11.1 or 11.2. "In my senior year, I want to get into the 19s. This year I want to qualify for state. We have a lot of fast kids at Mattawan in the 100 We want to make it to state and do something there.

"I would say I need to work on my blocks a little bit. My acceleration is good and my speed is pretty good as soon as I get up to top speed. For the relays we want to qualify for state and compete at the state meet.

O'Rourke said his second best open event is the 200.

"Coming around the curve is probably my best strength. I accelerate coming off the curve. I need to work on maintaining my speed to the finish line."

His best time in the 100 was his 114

Coming into the season, our team is looking good," O'Rourke said. "We have a lot of individual talent."

Football is his main sport and he said he ran track to help out with his football fundamentals."

Paw Paw baseball team Improves record to 18-11-1

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW – The Paw Paw varsity baseball traveled to Niles on Wednesday, May 15, for a conference twinbill and suffered two losses.

In the opener against Niles, the Red Wolves scored in the sixth to take a 2-1 lead. Unfortunately, the Vikings scored 2 unearned runs in the last inning for a walk off win 3-2. Dylan Abet pitched four outstanding innings, allowed one ER, and struck out six. Bryn Carlson pitched 2+ strong innings, allowed 0 ER, and struck out two. Caden Bowen and Landon Buhl collected the lone hits. Caden Bowen went 1-3 with an RBI double. Landon went 1-2 with an RBI single and BB.

In game No. 2 Niles jumped out to an early 2-0 lead, but after 5 innings the score was tied 2-2. The Vikings scored 5 late runs to win 7-2. Jake Hindenach was tough for five innings, allowing two earned runs and striking out seven. Leading the offense was Ryan Holmes, Jacob Major and Caden Bown. Holmes went 1-3 with a BB. Major was 1-3 with a HBP. Caden Bowen was 1-2 with a walk. Gunnar and Drew each added an RBI.

May 17

Varsity baseball traveled to Kalamazoo college Friday for a nonconference DH against Centreville. The first game was a pitchers duel to start with the Bulldogs up 1-0 heading into the bottom of the fifth. The Red Wolves bats exploded for six runs and then cruised to a 6-3 victory.

"Maverick threw an outstanding 7 inning complete game, 3 ER, and struck out four," coach Derek Vanderburg said. "Maverick is now 4-0 on the mound."

Leading the offense was Holmes by going 4-4 with a SB. Goodell went 1-for-3 with a double and an RBI. Maverick Johnson was 1-for-2 with 2 RBIs. Landon Buhl went 1-3 with an RBI single. Hindenach added an RBI single. Bryn Carlson and Jacob Major added singles. In game 2 the bats woke up and cruised to a 15-0 mercy victory in 3 innings.

"Gunnar pitched a marvelous game going all 3 innings, allowed 1 hit, and struck out 6. Jake and Jacob led the offensive attack," Vanderburg said.

Hindenac went 2-2 with two triples and four RBIs. Hindenach's 2 triples broke the career triple record. He now has 11 career triples. Jacob Majorwas 2-2 with an RBI. Buhl was 1-1 with 2 walks and 2 RBIs. Caden went 1-1 with 2 RBIs and a BB. Gunnar Goodell and Dylan Abnet each added a single and an RBI. Maverick Johnson hit a deep double and walked. Holmes added a single and a walk, while Nate Lamere chipped in with an RBI.

The Red Wolves record now stands at 18-11-1.

Games this week:

May 21st- DH South Haven at home (Senior Night)

May 22nd- single game at home vs. Constantine

Paw Paw track women third in conference

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW – The Paw Paw Red Wolves track team competed in the Wolverine Conference Championship on Friday evening (May 9) at Sturgis High School. The women's team placed an impressive third in the conference and the Men's team placed 7th.

Conference Champions:

AJ Rickli: Shot Put. Aaron West: 300m Hurdles

Additional Top Scorers: Taylor Thorpe: 2nd 400m, 3rd 200m. Madison Johnson: 2nd 800m; Hayden Lemieux: 4th 3200m

Mecenzie Allen: 2nd Long Jump,4th 100m Hurdles, 3rd High Jump; Savana Rickli: 2nd Shot Put, 2nd Discus

Abigail Chambers: 6th Shot Put ;Angel Miller: 8th Discus; AJ Rickli: 4th Discus; Landon Brown: 7th 400m; Aaron West: 2nd 110 Hurdles, Darrin Strey: 3rd Shot Put, 2nd Discus; Bryson Newell: 8th Discus; Barron Marinich: 8th High Jump; JayJ Varney: 6th Pole Vault ; Truman Brennan: 4th Long Jump.

Paw Paw golf

Paw Paw's boys golf team played on May 20 in the Region 9 preregional at Gull Lake View Golf Course and was sixth among nine teams with a 348. Scorers for Paw Paw were Benny Miller, 75; Tyler Klett, 83, Brady Holzworth 92, Garrett Halluch, 98 and Fisher Edwards 108.

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Lawton soccer team takes care of Paw Paw 2-1

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWTON – Lawton girls soccer coach Abby Burris couldn't have been happier when her Lawton girls soccer team played Paw Paw on Saturday.

"Well it was a hot one today for a little friendly rivalry, but the girls battled through the heat and pulled out the win, 2-1 over Paw Paw,"Burris said. "Lille Mandujano scored the first goal with an assist from Tiara Ellis. Taylor Whipple with a long range shot for the second goal.[L SEP]"I'm proud of our girls for pushing through all the way to the end."

Lawton track

Lawton boys track squad scored 77 points to tie Hartford for first place on Friday in the regional meet at Bangord.

The girls took third place.

State qualifier for Lawton who will compete in Kent City are:

Boys, Boden Genovese in the 800 meters, second 2:03.74; Mason Mayne, first, shot put, 57-10; Jason Barnett, third, shot put, 47-02.25; Mason Mayne, discus, first, 178-0.

Girls, Alexis Girolami, high jump, 4-11, fifth; Gabriella Holloway, high jump, 4-11, sixth; pole vault, Megan Robertson, pole vault, 10-0, first; Alyssa McNally, pole vault, 9-0, second.

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2. Meghan Overacker
3. Meghan Overacker
4. Robert Klein
5. Kyle Pierce
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Sports

Bunce looking forward to college track

Mattawan's Kali Bunce will be running at Kalamazoo College.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

MATTAWAN –Kali Bunce has been having a very productive senior season at track and field for Mattawan's girls team this season.

She will soon be focusing her skills on the college level.

Bunce formerly was at Paw Paw and was allconference a previous year. She is in her first full year at Mattawan.

Bunce has been in the open 400 meter dash this year.

"I really want to break 62 seconds in that," she said early in the season. "In the open 800, my goal there is to get 2:25. I tend to race really well in the 800. My strategy is really good. In the second lap, I just put the hammer down. For the 400, I just go through the whole thing. I think the 800 would be my best."

She's also in the 2x400 and 4x400 relays.

"They're looking pretty good," she said. "In the conference we'll be right in the middle of the pack. There's a lot of competition. We're building up to be really good. I'm getitng there. I'm not quite where I want to be at. The team is looking pretty good."

Track and cross country have been her two sports. Track is her best sport She will be running at Kalamazoo College.

"I like the environment of the school and the team," she said of KCollege. "You can tell the coach cares about the athletic performance and the whole package."

Mattawan junior eyes another productive softball season

This is Audrey Ford's junior softball season at Mattawan.

By John Raffel

Audrey Ford has been an important part of Mattawan's softball team this season.

She is a junior this year and in her third varsity season.

In her freshman season, Mattawan made it to the state semifinals.

"That was really cool because we came together as a team," Ford said. "We made it really far and won some big games like against South Lyon and that was probably in one of their tournaments on the east side of the state and I had a two-run home run which powered us over the top ranked team, which was really cool."

She was a second baseman last season and was set to play shortstop in 2024.

"Coach wanted me to move there," she said. "I like it a lot better. I wasn't for sure coming into the season how much differently it would be because I haven't had much experience there. But as I played a few weeks and got used to it more I like it a lot better. The key is athleticism and knowing what you're doing and keep practicing at it and being the best for my teammates."

Ford's best batting average coming this season was .336 last year, a little bit better than from her freshman year.

"I'm feeling a lot better and more confident at the plate," she said. "So I'm hoping I can come up this year. The key is having a plan when you go to the plate and knowing what you want to do and what pitch you're looking for and read the defense and where they're at and where the ball should be best placed."

Ford's only sport is softball. She plays in the Finesse travel organization. I've had a love for it ever since T Ball and Little League."

Gobles track girls take second place

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES – On Friday, May 17, at Saugatuck the Gobles boys track and field team finished 6th and the girls were second of the 16 schools present. The boys qualified athletes in seven events and the girls qualified athletes in 11 events.

Boys State Qualifiers:

100m Dash - Mason Mansfield; 200m Dash - Mason Mansfield; Shot Put - Jackson Geiger; High Jump - Eli Huizenga; 4x100m Relay - Eli Huizenga, Alex Lee, Nathan Ray, Mason Mansfield (set a school record); 4x200m Relay - Eli Huizenga, Mason Mansfield, Nathan Ray, Alex Lee (set a school record); 4x400m Relay - Eli Huizenga, Steven Juarez, Nathan Ray, Alex Lee

Girls State Qualifiers:

100m Dash - Daisy Estrada; 200m Dash - Abby Pattison; 400m Dash - Madison Cooley; 800m Run - Madison Cooley and Libby Smith; 1600m Run - Libby Smith; 3200m Run - Libby Smith; 100m Hurdles - Aly Tripp; 4x100m Relay - Deanna Wood, Daisy Estrada, Elizabeth Woodard, Aly Tripp; 4x200m Relay - Sasha Doll, Daisy Estrada, Olivia Platt, Elizabeth Woodard; 4x400m Relay - Deanna Wood, Abby Pattison, Lauren Shaffer, Madison Cooley; 4x800m Relay - Libby Smith, Lauren Shaffer, Zoie Wood, Madison Cooley.

Lawrence softball team drops pair

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWRENCE – The Lawrence Tigers dropped two to a tough Centreville team on Thursday night. Hits were earned on the night by Hailey Camp (1 double), Ashley Reed (1 double), Alyssa Coombs (1 hit), Evelyn Waite (1 hit), and Kelsey Harroun (1 hit). Hailey Camp and Alyssa Coombs pitched 5 strikeouts between the two of them. The Tigers were not able to stop the Bulldogs, dropping game one 14-0 and game two 11-1. The Tigers finished with conference play 5-12, and will be matching up with Eau Claire at home next Wednesday for a double header. Lawrence's overall record is 9-13.

Lawrence track

Lawrence's team competed in the Division 4 regional at Saugatuck on May 17 and scored one point in the men's division and 17 for an eighth place tie in the girls.

For the boys, Dillon Simpson was eighth in the discus (115-7).

For the girls, Carolina Mancera was second (100-11) in discus to qualify for the state meet on June 1. The 4x100 relay team of Colleen McGaw, Hailey Camp, Leslie Reed and Kayli Leyva was sixth (55.6). McGaw, Camp, Reed and Carolina Mancera was sixth in the 4x200 relay (1:58.10). Mancerea was seventh in the shot put (29-0).

Mattawan boys ninth at track regional

By John Raffel
Correspondent

MATTAWAN – Mattawan's boys track team was ninth at the Division 1 regional on Friday at Portage Central while the girls were 12th with 6.5.

For the boys, Trey Bennett was third (11.3) in the 100-meter dash.

Dylan Bouters qualified for the state finals in the 110-meter hurdles by placing third in the 110-meter hurdles in 15.22 seconds. Hugh Ford also qualified for the state meet by clearing 14 feet, 6 inches in the pole vault for second place.

The state finals will be on June 1.

The 4x200 relay team of Bennett, Jack Nicey, Connor O'Rourke and Wyatt Hicks was third in 1:31.05.

For the Mattawan girls, Teagan Kimble was in a tie for fourth in the high jump with a personal record of 4-10.

Mattawan golf

Mattawan's boys golf team tied for fifth with Big Rapids by shooting a 316 on Saturday at Cedar Chase Golf Course for the Rockford Invitational. Grand Rapids won the event at 303.

Scorers for Mattawan were Matthew Nowak (72), Boston Bilek (81), Brian Graver (81), Eason Haller (82), Luke Roberts (86) and Griffin McClish (88).

Triemstra having strong season for Lawton

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWTON – Earlier this month, the Lawton Blue Devil Varsity golf team hosted the 2024 Blue Devil Invitational at

Lake Cora Hills Golf Club. The invite showcased the following schools: Bridgman, Cassopolis, Kalamazoo

Christian, Lawton, Niles, Saugatuck, Schoolcraft, South Haven, Watervliet and White Pigeon.

The Blue Devils won the Team Gold Division with a combined score of 375. The winning team consisted of Senior-

Connor Triemstra, Juniors – Kaedon Miller, Mateo Oertel and Maddie Winkel, and Sophomore – Levi

Brooks. Triemstra also earned medalist honors in the Gold division, with a score of 84.

"I have been playing golf since on and off since I was around 7 years old," Triemstra said. "My dad was also a golfer and got me started. I really started focusing on golf in the last two years."

Triemstra said he enjoys "having a good time with my buddies and trying to do my best...

"'And being able to golf with my teammates who have since become my friends. I also like to try to shoot the best I can and beat kids from other schools."

"High school golf has meant a lot to me," Triemstra said. "I really like being able to play one of my favorite sports competitively.

"It was an honor to win the Blue Devil Invite. What is really cool about it is that my cousin, Zach Lull,

won this same event last year so it made it that much more special to bring home my first win this way."

Triemstra said he has had to face some adversity in his golf game.

"I definitely had to face adversity in golf as my scores at the start of this season were pretty bad. I made it a goal to do better and train harder and it's really paying off," Triemstra said. "I would absolutely love to play golf in college. Hopefully this win will help me gain some interest from college coaches.

"The only goal that I set for myself this year is to be able to make it to State. I would have to mirror my winning performance of 84 to qualify."

Triemstra said he would encourage other high school golfers to train as much as possible to become better."

"Train, train and train some more,

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VIEWPOINT

THE SCHOOL END IS HERE, THOUGHTS FOR OUR GRADUATES

Our newspapers, for the most part, are filled with photos of high school graduates and some college graduates. It is indeed a milestone to graduate, and it will be a feat you, your parents and grandparents will remember for years to come.

Fortunately, this year we all have live ceremonies with much pomp and circumstance. I can only think back to the COVID years when graduates weren't allowed to have live ceremonies. Instead, it was done online. In this writer's opinion, that was deplorable, and our leaders who led the COVID scare, and demanded that people cannot congregate, should be ashamed.

Rather than me pontificating, I thought I would share some quotations from leaders, who implored graduates to make a positive contribution in this world or just had a humorous thought or told about their graduation experience. Here they are:

God wants us to know that life is a series of beginnings, not endings. Just as graduations are not terminations, but commencements. Creation is an ongoing process, and when we create a perfect world where love and compassion are shared by all, suffering will cease. Bernie Siegel

In this outward and physical ceremony we attest once again to the inner and spiritual strength of our Nation. As my high school teacher, Miss Julia Coleman, used to say: 'We must adjust to changing times and still hold to unchanging principles.' Jimmy Carter

A graduation ceremony is an event where the commencement speaker tells thousands of students dressed in identical caps and gowns that 'individuality' is the key to success. Robert Orben

I think women as well as men are concerned about jobs and the economy and spending and, and other issues. They're concerned that when their kids graduate they have an economy and they have a future in this country and they, they have the same opportunity that we've had and our grandparents have had. Ken Buck

You know what has made me the happiest I've ever been? Seeing my son and daughter graduate. More than wanting them to be educated, I wanted them to be nice people. To see that they have become both is just a wonderful thing. Gil Scott-Heron

I've told my children that when I die, to release balloons in the sky to celebrate that I graduated. For me, death is a graduation. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

Adults tell students that it gets better, that the world changes after school, that being 'different' will pay off sometime after graduation. But no one explains to them why. Alexandra Robbins

I think about the milestones from my childhood and what it will be like to watch our kids go through them. Taking Riley to her first day of school was a whirlwind. I can't imagine what middle school is going to be like, and high school, and graduation. Stephen Curry

I went to my son's graduation this weekend, and I heard a great quote I've never heard before from Albert Einstein. It was that the greatest danger to the world is not the bad people but it's the good people who don't speak out. Hamilton Jordan

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
PUBLISHER

LIFE AS PERFORMANCE ART

When I was growing up, some of The Olds still called it Decoration Day. They were taking part in a tradition that dated back to just after the Civil War.

Late each May they went to the local cemetery to clean up the graves in the family plot and place flowers on the headstones or stone urns. Special attention was given to those who died during the war.

A few days later, on May 30, they would line the streets as the color guard from the Grand Army of the Republic led a parade through town. Behind them marched, or rode in open horse-drawn carriages, the men and women who had been in uniform during times of war.

The observance ended at the cemetery with a longstanding liturgy that included placing a wreath at the memorial, singing patriotic songs, sometimes a speech and a rifle salute.

The tradition continues to this day, although there have been gentle changes. The carriages have been replaced by convertibles; the event is now called Memorial Day and since 1970 it takes place on the last Monday of May.

But the name and date matter less than our participation in it.

We are part of that long tradition. We who may now be viewed as The Olds will recall taking part in past celebrations ... joining parents and grands planting flowers or leaving potted geraniums at the cemetery, watching or joining the parade as it passed. We learned history and civics lessons in schools about the event's intent.

Being present at a Memorial Day ceremony does not come close to repaying what we owe those who fought and died for our freedoms. Rather, being there clarifies it, shifting it from theory to reality.

Because we made the extra effort to decorate a grave, whether a family site or working with others to make sure every veteran's grave has a flag over it, it imprints important lessons in us.

As the morning unfolds we are changed. We stand a bit taller because of those we remember, we feel a connection with the past and it makes us appreciate the freedoms we have in our country. It is a humbling experience to understand that we owe so much to these men and women.

President Obama was right when he proclaimed, "Our nation owes a debt to its fallen heroes that we can never fully repay."

Gov. Granholm was too when she said, "Ceremonies are important. But our gratitude has to be more than visits to the troops or once-a-year Memorial Day ceremonies. We honor the dead best by treating the living well."

Ditto President Reagan when he said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We did not pass it on to our children in our blood stream. It must be fought for, protected and handed on to them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men (and women) were once free."

For me, the veil between the living and dead is thin on Memorial Day. I can almost see our heroes from past generations fall in to line up for the march down the street.

They are the Patriots from the American Revolution, the Boys in Blue who won the Civil War, Doughboys from World War I and GIs from World War II, the men and women who fought in Korea and Vietnam, and the more recent heroes of the wars in the Middle East.

G CORWIN STOPPEL

Real heroes never die. They live in our hearts to inspire us, motivate us and guide us in our lives. As long as we remember them, whether by name or not, they never really die.

On Memorial Day, the living and dead are connected we stand on the shoulders of those who went before us.

I pity those who can never find a good thing to say about the United States. They always find fault but never offer a suggestion on how we can make things better. They have lost the plot. It is best we ignore them in hopes they go away.

The real work of Memorial Day begins when the Commanding Officer of the observance dismisses the crowd. We take a last long look at the wreath laid in honor of the war dead, the Stars and Stripes and people around us. We ask ourselves what we can do to build on the foundation laid by these men and women?

The answer is respect: for our neighbors and community, teachers and education system, students who played in band and took in the observance; land, water and air that provide our food; for those who work, have retired or not yet begun.

THE COURIER LEADER & PAW PAW FLASHES

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Hartford to host Strawberry Festival on June 7,8

The Greater Hartford Area Chamber of Commerce will host the Hartford Strawberry Festival on June 7 & 8, 2024 in Hartford, Michigan. This two-day event is a great family friendly festival with many activities for everyone to enjoy.

2024 Hartford Strawberry Festival Schedule of Events

All Events in Ely Park unless otherwise noted.

Music and announcements throughout the day brought to you by Joe MacMillan.

Friday June 7th

12:00pm – 9:00pm - Food Vendors

12:00pm – 9:00pm – Craft & Commercial Vendors

12:00pm – 9:00pm – Petting Zoo and Pony Rides

12:00pm – 4:00pm – Hartford Fire Department-Smash & Bash: Car-Smash Fundraiser (Corner of Maple & Main)

3:00pm – 9:00pm - Rides – By: Vertical Edge

5:30pm - Kiddie Parade Line up/bike decorating @ Hartford Public Library

6:00pm - Kiddie Parade - Parade down Main Street

6:30pm - Crowning of Strawberry Royalty (following parade)

6:30pm –8:30pm – Hartford Fire Department-Smash & Bash: Car-Smash Fundraiser (Corner of Maple & Main)

7:00pm - John Dudley the Magician

Saturday June 8th

7:00am – 11:00am – Strawberry Pancake Breakfast at the Hartford United Methodist Church 425 East Main Street

9:00am – 11:45am – 2nd Annual Car and Bike Show on Main Street

9:00am – 11:30am – Hartford Fire Department-Smash & Bash: Car-Smash Fundraiser (Corner of Maple & Main)

10:00am – 9:00pm - Food Vendors

10:00am - 9:00pm – Craft & Commercial Vendors

10:00am – 9:00pm – Petting Zoo and Pony Rides

11:00am – Hartford Cardio Drumming

12:00pm – 9:00pm - Rides – By: Vertical Edge

12:00pm - Parade Line up - Hartford High School

1:00pm - Strawberry Parade (Main St.)

1:45pm - Parade Awards

2:00pm - Strawberry Pie Eating Contest

2:30pm – 6:30pm – Hartford Fire Department-Smash & Bash: Car-Smash Fundraiser (Corner of Maple & Main)

4:00pm-9:00pm – The All Niters (Brought to you by the City of Hartford & Business Sponsors)

7:00pm – Hartford Fire Department Jaws of Life Demonstration (Corner of Maple & Main)

Rides provided by Vertical Edge
Ride Tickets: $1 a ticket – each ride will post number of tickets required
Wristbands: $15 one day all you can ride; $25 two day all you can ride

Suspect tased by deputy in domestic violence complaint

Van Buren County Sheriff's Uniform Response went to a domestic violence complaint in Columbia Township. During the investigation, the suspect tried to assault/punch the Sheriff's deputy. The deputy was able to place the suspect in custody after deploying his taser. The suspect was transported to the Van Buren County Jail where he faces several charges.

Uniform Response handled two fatal traffic crashes on back-to-back nights in Keeler Township. In both cases, they were single occupied vehicles in which the drivers lost their lives after leaving the roadway and striking a tree. Both drivers were local residents. Both remain under investigation currently.

Uniform Response handled a traffic crash in Arlington Township. "It was found that the vehicle at fault went into the oncoming lane and struck the driver's side rear of the oncoming vehicle in the victim's lane," said Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott. The driver at fault was arrested and lodged for Operating Under the Influence of Drugs. There were minor injuries sustained during the crash.

Uniform Response took a stolen ATV complaint in Paw Paw Township. A 1988 Yamaha 350 Warrior, tan/gold in color, was stolen from a residence. "Anyone with any information is asked to call our office at (269) 657-3101," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response took a break-in at an unoccupied residence in Geneva Township. The residence was broken into, and several items were stolen. The incident happened during the daytime. "We do have information that is being worked on currently to locate the suspects. Anyone with any information on this is asked to call as well to help in the case," said Sheriff Abbott.

"We sent a sergeant to a five-day, 40-hour training put on by ALERRT: Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training through Texas State University. It's an Active Shooter Response Level 1: Train the Trainer. It had hands on scenarios on active shooters/response to active shooter events. This class entailed force scenarios as well as classroom instruction. Upon Sgt. Rennhack graduating/completing the training, he is now certified to teach the class to other law enforcement officers," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response took a call just outside of Lawton in which a male subject pretended to be interested in buying a house from the victim/caller. "While looking through the house, the suspect shut himself and the homeowner in a room. The suspect became aggressive telling the homeowner it's his house now. The homeowner was able to take control of the situation with the suspect leaving the property," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response took a larceny of a zero turn Bad Boy ZT Elite 60-inch mower in Bangor Township. Currently, there are no suspects. "Anyone with any information is asked to call our office," said Sheriff Abbott.

"Our office is participating in the OHSP Grant this month. The focus is Seat Belt Enforcement," said Sheriff Abbott.

"I would like to thank everyone for the outpouring of support not only for our office, but to law enforcement overall. This past week was dedicated to Honor Law Enforcement, and our community's support was almost overwhelming at times," said Sheriff Abbott.

37-year-old Sister Lakes area man killed in single vehicle crash

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer

KEELER TWP. A 37-year-old Sister Lakes area man was killed in a single vehicle crash Tuesday night in Keeler Township, according to a press release from the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office.

Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott reported that Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the intersection of County Road 687 and County Road 342 in Keeler Township at approximately 8:45 p.m., for a report of a single vehicle crash with entrapment. Van Buren County Central Dispatch received a 911 call from an individual stating that they had witnessed a vehicle run through the intersection and crash into a tree. Sheriff Abbott said the female caller went to the vehicle to provide assistance and notified dispatchers that the doors were locked, the airbags had all deployed and that the vehicle was smoking.

Van Buren County Sheriff's deputies arrived at the scene but were unable to remove the individual from the vehicle as it had quickly become fully engulfed in flame. Sister Lakes and Keeler Fire departments arrived at the scene to extinguish the vehicle.

An investigation at the scene led deputies to believe that the 2106 Volkswagen Jetta was traveling eastbound on County Road 354, at approximately 70 mph and continued without slowing, through the "T" intersection, where it then went airborne for approximately 35 feet before bouncing off the grass and continuing forward for another 100 feet, where it then collided head-on with a large tree.

Sheriff Abbott said it appeared that the victim was not wearing a seat belt. An exact cause of the crash is not known currently. Sheriff Abbott said an attempt will be made to recover the vehicle's Event Data Recorder, sometimes referred to as the "black box" for additional information. It is not known if drugs or alcohol were contributing factors in this incident.

Other assisting agencies at the scene include the Pokagon Tribal Police, Keeler Rescue, Decatur Fire Department, True's Towing & Recovery, and the Office of the Medical Examiner.

Van Buren Tech hosts mock disaster training

LAWRENCE - Van Buren Tech conducted its annual Mock Disaster training, Wednesday, May 8, continuing its tradition of excellence in emergency response education.
This event serves as a cornerstone for students to engage in a dynamic, real-life public safety scenario, closely mirroring actual emergency conditions. As a hallmark of Van Buren Tech's dedication to realistic and immersive training environments, this year's exercise involved a complex scenario that simulated a car accident triggering a multi-vehicle collision near a construction site, according to a press release from the VBISD.

The intricate simulation not only featured a car veering off the road but also a subsequent scaffolding collapse, leading to a dramatic and dangerous scene with exposed rebar. The chain of events further escalated to involve an ambulance and a school bus, providing the students with a multifaceted emergency scenario to navigate.

Students from diverse Van Buren Tech programs including Emergency Medical Technician, Fire Science Academy, Law Enforcement, Patient Care, and Cosmetology participated in the event. Notably, the Cosmetology students lent their expertise to enhance the realism of the scenario by creating vivid and authentic-looking injuries and abrasions on actors portraying victims.

This annual training exercise is critical as it enables the students to apply their classroom knowledge in a controlled, yet highly realistic emergency situation. The scenario pushed the students to practice vital skills such as triage, rapid patient assessment, and effective resource management under pressure.

The Mock Disaster event provides invaluable hands-on experience, preparing students to handle real-life emergencies with competence and confidence. By collaborating with local industry professionals and actors, the students gained deeper insights into the complexities and dynamics of emergency management and response tactics, according to the press release.

Van Buren Tech expressed its thanks to all participating actors, spectators, first responders, staff, and students "whose contributions were instrumental in the success of this year's event."

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"Lend A Paw" donation drive begins

"Lend a Paw" donation drive, for the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Animal Control Division, and sponsored by the Van Buren County Republican Women, will be held June 1, from noon to 4 p.m. at the shelter, 58040 County Road 681, Hartford. Individuals can meet adoptable dogs, or bring their dog for a free microchip, or have a photo taken with the shelter's staff. From noon to 2 p.m., Sheriff's Deputy Devin Krogel and his partner K-9 "Jett" will meet with visitors. Goody bags will be available for children, and Chew Max Pets of Paw Paw will be there as well. Supplies needed by the shelter include dry food (senior adult and puppy), canned dog food, chew toys, slip leads, cans of pumpkin, dewormer, Greenie Pill Pockets, laundry, dish soap, disposable gloves, dog treats, trash bags, Lysol cleaner, blankets, sheets, towels, and dog treats. Financial donations are welcomed. For more information, call (269) 599-6023 or call the shelter at (269) 621-4624.
Courier-Leader photo/Paul Garrod

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Pastor Len Schoenherr
668-2811
www.almenaumc.com
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(Childcare Provided)
FRIDAY: AA- 8 p.m.

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COVEY HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
33566 28th Avenue
(corner of 28th & M-40)
269-628-2139
www.coveyhill.org
Pastor Daniel Wilson
SUNDAY
Worship @10:45am
Nursery & Children's Church provided
Messages available on YouTube

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FAITH OF THE APOSTLES CURCH
34580 M-40 Highway
Elder David Harn
1 (269) 512-4586
SUNDAY
Christian Education - 10 a.m.
Wroship Service - 11:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Bible Study - 7 p.m.

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
32464 Red Arrow
Pastor Horace M. "Buddy" Turner... 657-2090
SUNDAY
Worship - 11 a.m.
on Facebook:
www.Facebook.com/buddyturner2 or search: "Buddy Turner"

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firstpres120@gmail.com
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Pastor Len Schoenherr
657-7727
SUNDAY
Service time - 9:30 a.m.
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Online worship at Facebook page "Paw Paw United Methodist Church"

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Rev. Fr. Alan P. Jorgensen
657-4459
SATURDAY
Vigil - 4:00 p.m.
SUNDAY
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Holy days & Daily Masses
Consult Bulletin

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www.truthchurchpawpaw.com
Pastor Steven Green
657-5042
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Evening Service - 6 p.m.
THURSDAY
Bible Study - 7 p.m.

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www.mattawancc.com
mattawancommunitychurch@gmail.com
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Worship - 10:25 a.m.

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Monday: 7 pm - REFRESH Bible Study
Wednesday: 7pm - Prayer Meeting

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WEDNESDAY
Bible Study - 6 p.m.

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Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer 5:00 p.m.
facebook.com/DecaturBibleChurch
http://www.decaturbible.org

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Decatur New Hope Community Church
319 ½ West Delaware Street
Pastor Ross Tarantino
SUNDAY
Worship Service-10:00 a.m.
TUESDAY
Bible Study-1:00 p.m.
269-423-8136
info@decaturnewhopecommunity.net

LAWRENCE

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
231 W. James St.
674-4381
Pastor Brian Vince
SUNDAY
School - 10 a.m.
Morning Worship - 11 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Service - 7 p.m.

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Pastor Miriam Peralta
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SHAES to sponsor Memorial Day breakfast

South Haven Area Emergency Services (SHAES) will sponsor its annual Memorial Day pancake breakfast on Sunday, May 26, from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. at its Blue Star Station.

Diners can enjoy the breakfast at the Station or get it to go via a Drive-Thru feature.

The breakfast will include pancakes, scrmabled eggs, link sausage and beverages. The cost is $10 for adults and $5 for children 4-14 years of age. Kids under four are free.

Proceeds from this year's breakfasts will support the purchase of new pagers for members of the department. A second breakfast will be held Labor Day weekend.

Trinity students use public speaking to discuss history

Trinity Lutheran middle school students recently did research on historical people and their contributions to society during a public speaking event. The annual cross-curriculum event combined research, history, writing, public speaking, and dramatic performance. Teachers, Deanna Hindenach, and Andrea Barbre worked with the students in preparation for the event. Student scores were tallied, and the top placements were named and include First Place – Maddie (Jane Austen; Second Place (tie) - Cecelia (Queen Elizabeth II) and Isadora (Ada Lovelace), and Third Place - Sydney (Katherine Johnson.

Photo courtesy/Trinity Lutheran School

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SECTION B

Monuments placed at Veteran's Memorial Park

A Civil War soldier and Korean War soldier monuments were placed Monday morning, May 20, at Maple City Veteran's Memorial Park in Paw Paw. Placement of the two monuments, as well as a bald eagle monument was performed by Lounsbury Excavating, Inc., of Paw Paw, who volunteered their services. Members of the Paw Paw American Legion McGowan-Johnson Post 68, and well as Paw Paw Volunteer Fire Department members and others, also volunteered to help with the Monday project. The bald eagle will be permanently placed at the site after Memorial Day. It marks the seventh monument to be placed in the park for the project, which began three years ago. Other monuments include World War I and II soldiers, a female combat soldier, a war on terrorism soldier, and a Vietnam soldier.

Courier-Leader photos/Paul Garrod

PP Elementary hears from 22 presenters on STEM Day

Paw Paw Later Elementary hosted their second annual STEM Day, Thursday, May 16 with the help of 22 presenters and 31 volunteers from the community. Presenters brought their professional expertise from several businesses, corporations, and organizations such as the Van Buren Intermediate School District, Van Buren Conservation District, KRESA, Hiemstra Optical, Corteva, Michigan State Police Post, Tower Pinkster Architecture, Engineering, and Interiors, and the Paw Paw District Library. Through nine different stations, students were able to get hands-on with topics such as density, invasive species, soil health, forensic fingerprinting, math games, food science, rockets, and robots. PPLE STEM teacher, Sarah Crawford, who organized the event, said, "It was a huge success largely in part because of all the support we received from community members." She added, "STEM Day is about showing students the relevancy of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math in real world jobs. Having days like this where we can collaborate with people in the community is one step towards preparing students for diverse opportunities ahead of them."

Courier-Leader photos/Paul Garrod

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I SAW IT IN THE FLASHES

ORDINANCE NO. 0513-2024

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPPING OF IMPROVEMENTS AND EXTENSIONS TO THE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM TO SERVE THE VILLAGE OF MATTAWAN; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF REVENUE BONDS TO PAY THE COST THEREOF; TO PRESCRIBE THE FORM OF THE BONDS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE COLLECTION OF REVENUES FROM THE SYSTEM SUFFICIENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING THE COSTS OF OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE SYSTEM AND TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON THE BONDS; TO PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE RESERVE ACCOUNT FOR THE BONDS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE SEGREGATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE REVENUES; TO PROVIDE FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE HOLDERS OF THE BOND IN ENFORCEMENT THEREOF; AND TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO THE BONDS AND THE SYSTEM.

THE VILLAGE OF MATTAWAN ORDAINS:

Section 1. Definitions. The following words and terms used in this Ordinance shall have the meanings assigned in this Section, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

The word "acquired," as used in this Ordinance, shall be construed to include acquisition by purchase, construction or by any other method.

"Act 94" shall mean Act 94, Public Acts of Michigan, 1933, as amended.

"Additional Bonds" shall mean additional bonds issued pursuant to Section 17 of the Ordinance No. 1108-21 of the Issuer.

"Bond Reserve Account" shall mean the subaccount in the Bond and Interest Redemption Account established in accordance with Section 12 of this Ordinance.

"Depository Bank" a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, or other financial institution qualified to serve as depository bank and designated by resolution of the Issuer.

"Engineer" shall mean Civica Engineering, Portage, Michigan.

"Fiscal Year" shall mean the fiscal year of the Issuer and the operating year of the System, commencing July 1 and ending June 30 of the subsequent year, as such year may be changed from time to time.

"Government" shall mean the government of the United States of America or any agency thereof.

"Issuer" shall mean the Village of Mattawan, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan.

"Ordinance" shall mean this ordinance and any ordinance or resolution of the Issuer amendatory or supplemental to this ordinance, including ordinances or resolutions authorizing issuance of Additional Bonds.

"Outstanding Bond" shall mean the Series 2021 Bond.

"Outstanding Ordinance" shall mean Ordinance No. 1108-21 of the Issuer duly adopted by the Village Council of the Issuer on November 8, 2021, authorizing the issuance of the Series 2021 Bond.

"Project" shall mean acquiring, constructing, furnishing and equipping improvements to the to acquire, construct, furnish and equip improvements to the Issuer's existing water supply system, consisting generally of water main replacements, together with all related site improvements, appurtenances and attachments, together with all necessary sites, structures, equipment, interests in land, appurtenances and attachments thereto.

"Public Improvements" shall be understood to mean the public improvements, as defined in Section 3 of Act 94, which are authorized to be acquired and constructed under the provisions of this Ordinance.

"Reserve Amount" shall mean with respect to the Series 2024 Bond the lesser of

(1) the maximum annual debt service due on the Series 2024 Bond in the current or any future year, (2) 125% of the average annual debt service on the Series 2024 Bond, or (3) 10% of the outstanding principal amount of the Series 2024 Bond on the date of issuance of the Series 2024 Bond.

"Series 2021 Bond" shall mean the Issuer's Water Supply System Revenue Refunding Bond, Series 2021, dated December 7, 2021, pursuant to Ordinance No. 1108- 21 of the Issuer.

"Series 2024 Bond" shall mean the Issuer's Water Supply System Revenue Bond, Series 2024 (Taxable), in the principal amount of Four Million Nine Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars ($4,910,000) authorized to be issued pursuant to this Ordinance.

"System" shall mean the Issuer's water supply system including such facilities thereof as are now existing, are acquired and constructed as the Project, and all enlargements, extensions, repairs and improvements thereto hereafter made.

"Transfer Agent" shall mean the transfer agent and bond registrar for the Series 2024 Bond as appointed from time to time by the Issuer as provided in Section 6 of this Ordinance and who or which shall carry out the duties and responsibilities as set forth in Section 6 of this Ordinance.

Section 2. Necessity: Approval of Plans and Specifications. It is hereby determined to be a necessary public purpose of the Issuer to acquire and construct the Project in accordance with the plans and specifications prepared by the Issuer's Engineer and on file with the Issuer, which plans and specifications are hereby approved.

Section 3. Costs: Useful Life. The total cost of the Project is estimated to be not less than Four Million Nine Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars ($4,910,000), including the payment of incidental expenses as specified in Section 4 of this Ordinance, which estimate of cost is hereby approved and confirmed, and the period of usefulness of the Project is estimated to be not less than forty (40) years.

Section 4. Payment of Cost; Series 2024 Bond Authorized. To pay all or part of the cost of constructing the Project, including payment of all legal, engineering, financial and other expenses incident to said acquisition and construction and the costs incident to the issuance and sale of the Series 2024 Bond, it is hereby determined that the Issuer borrow the sum of not to exceed Four Million Nine Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars ($4,910,000) and that revenue bonds be issued therefor pursuant to the provisions of Act 94. The remaining cost of the Project shall be paid from grant funds and other funds legally available to the Issuer.

Except as amended by or expressly provided to the contrary in this Ordinance, all of the provisions of the Outstanding Ordinance shall apply to the Series 2024 Bond, the same as though each of the provisions were repeated in this Ordinance in detail; the purpose of this Ordinance being to authorize the issuance of Additional Bonds that are of equal standing and priority of lien as to the Net Revenues with the Outstanding Bond. The issuance of Additional Bonds for the purposes described in this Ordinance is authorized by the provisions of the Outstanding Ordinance, upon the conditions therein stated, which conditions have been fully met.

Section 5. Bond Details. The Series 2024 Bond shall be designated "WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM REVENUE BOND, SERIES 2024 (TAXABLE)" (or such other designation as may be approved by the President as evidenced by execution of the Series 2024 Bond), shall be dated as of the date of delivery of the first installment, shall consist of one fully-registered nonconvertible bond of the denomination of $4,910,000 and shall be payable in principal installments serially on June 1 of each year, as follows:

Year	Amount	Year	Amount	Year	Amount	Year	Amount	Year	Amount	Year	Amount	Year	Amount	Year	Amount
2025	$81,000	2030	90,000	2035	99,000	2040	109,000	2045	$121,000	2050	133,000	2055	147,000	2060	163,000
2026	83,000	2031	92,000	2036	101,000	2041	112,000	2046	123,000	2051	136,000	2056	150,000	2061	166,000
2027	85,000	2032	93,000	2037	103,000	2042	114,000	2047	126,000	2052	139,000	2057	153,000	2062	169,000
2028	86,000	2033	95,000	2038	105,000	2043	116,000	2048	128,000	2053	142,000	2058	156,000	2063	172,000
2029	88,000	2034	97,000	2039	$107,000	2044	118,000	2049	131,000	2054	144,000	2059	$159,000	2064	178,000

The President is authorized to decrease the aggregate principal amount of the Series 2024 Bond and/or change the payment dates and the amounts of any of the foregoing installments if it is in the best interest of the Issuer, provided that the final principal payment of the Series 2024 Bond shall be due and payable within forty (40) years of the date of issuance of the Series 2024 Bond.

The Series 2024 Bond is expected to be delivered to the Government as initial purchaser thereof in installments (the "delivery installments") and each delivery installment shall be noted on the registration grid set forth on the Series 2024 Bond. The delivery installments shall be deemed to correspond to the serial principal installments of the Series 2024 Bond in direct chronological order of said serial principal installments. The serial principal installments of the Series 2024 Bond will each bear interest from the date of delivery of the corresponding delivery installment to the registered holder thereof as shown on the registration grid set forth on the Series 2024 Bond at the rate of not to exceed two percent (2.00%) per annum, payable on the first June 1 or December 1 following the date of delivery of said delivery installment, and semiannually thereafter on June 1 and December 1 of each year until maturity or earlier prepayment of said installment. Acceptance of the interest rate on the Series 2024 Bond shall be made by execution of the Series 2024 Bond which so designates the rate specified by the Government and accepted in writing by the Issuer. The Series 2024 Bond shall be issued in fully-registered form and such Bond shall not be convertible or exchangeable into more than one fully-registered bond. The President is authorized to change the principal and interest payment dates prior to delivery of the Series 2024 Bond if such a change is in the best interest of the Issuer; provided that the principal payments shall remain annual, and interest shall be due semiannually.

The Series 2024 Bond or installments thereof will be subject to prepayment prior to maturity in the manner and at the times as provided in the form of the Series 2024 Bond set forth in Section 9 of this Ordinance.

Section 6. Bond Registration and Transfer. The Transfer Agent shall keep or cause to be kept at its principal office sufficient books for the registration and transfer of the Series 2024 Bond, which shall at all times be open to inspection by the Issuer. The Transfer Agent shall transfer or cause to be transferred on said books any Bond presented for transfer, as hereinafter provided and subject to such reasonable regulations as it may prescribe.

Any Bond may be transferred upon the books required to be kept by the Transfer Agent pursuant to this Section, by the person in whose name it is registered, in person or by his duly authorized attorney, upon surrender of such Bond for transfer, accompanied by delivery of a duly executed written instrument of transfer in a form approved by the Transfer Agent. Whenever any Bond shall be surrendered for transfer, the Transfer Agent shall record such transfer on the registration books and shall register such transfer on the registration grid attached to the Series 2024 Bond. At the time of such transfer the Transfer Agent shall note on the Series 2024 Bond the outstanding principal amount thereof at the time of such transfer. The Transfer Agent shall require the payment by the bondholder requesting the transfer of any tax or other governmental charge required to be paid with respect to the transfer. If and at such time as any Bond is transferred to or held by any registered owner other than the Government, the Issuer shall not be required (i) to issue, register the transfer of, or exchange any Bond during a period beginning at the opening of business fifteen days before the day of the mailing of a notice of prepayment of the Series 2024 Bond or installments thereof selected for redemption and ending at the close of business on the day of that mailing, or (ii) to register the transfer of or exchange the Series 2024 Bond or portion thereof so selected for prepayment. In the event the Series 2024 Bond is called for prepayment in part, the Transfer Agent, upon surrender of the Series 2024 Bond called for prepayment in part, shall note on the Series 2024 Bond the principal amount prepaid and shall return the Series 2024 Bond to the registered owner thereof together with the prepayment amount on the prepayment date.

The Issuer's Treasurer is hereby appointed to act as Transfer Agent with respect to the Series 2024 Bond. If and at such time as a series of the Series 2024 Bond is transferred to or held by any registered owner other than the Government, the Issuer by resolution may appoint a bank or trust company qualified under Michigan law to act as transfer agent and bond registrar with respect to such series, and the Issuer may thereafter appoint a successor Transfer Agent upon sixty (60) days notice to the registered owner of such Series 2024 Bond.

Section 7. Payment of the Series 2024 Bond. Principal of and interest on the Series 2024 Bond shall be payable in lawful money of the United States of America by check or draft mailed or electronic transfer by the Transfer Agent to the registered owner at the address of the registered owner as shown on the registration books of the Issuer kept by the Transfer Agent. If the Government shall no longer be the registered owner of the Series 2024 Bond, then the principal of and interest on the Series 2024 Bond shall be payable to the registered owner of record as of the fifteenth day of the month preceding the payment date by check or draft mailed to the registered owner at the registered address. Such date of determination of the registered owner for purposes of payment of principal or interest may be changed by the Issuer to conform to future market practice. The Issuer's Treasurer is hereby authorized to execute an agreement with any successor Transfer Agent.

The Transfer Agent shall record on the registration books the payment by the Issuer of each installment of principal or interest or both on the Series 2024 Bond when made and the canceled checks or drafts representing such payments shall be returned to and retained by the Issuer's Treasurer, which canceled checks or drafts shall be conclusive evidence of such payments and the obligation of the Issuer with respect to such payments shall be discharged to the extent of such payments.

Upon payment by the Issuer of all outstanding principal of and interest on a series of the Series 2024 Bond, the registered owners thereof shall deliver the Series 2024 Bond to the Issuer for cancellation.

The President and Village Clerk each is hereby authorized and directed to negotiate privately the sale of the Series 2024 Bond to the Government at an interest rate not to exceed two percent (2.00%) per annum. The sale of the Series 2024 Bond to the Government at an interest rate of not to exceed two percent (2.00%) per annum and at the par value thereof is hereby approved. The Issuer's Treasurer is hereby authorized to deliver the Series 2024 Bond in accordance with the delivery instructions of the Government.

Section 8. Execution and Delivery of the Series 2024 Bond. The Series 2024 Bond shall be manually signed by the President and countersigned by the Village Clerk and shall have the corporate seal of the Issuer impressed thereon. After execution, the Series 2024 Bond shall be held by the Issuer's Treasurer for delivery to the Government. No Bond or any installment thereof shall be valid until registered by the Issuer's Treasurer or by another person designated in writing by the Issuer's Treasurer to act as bond registrar, or upon transfer by the Government and thereafter, by an authorized representative of the Transfer Agent.

Section 9. Bond Form. The Series 2024 Bond shall be in substantially the following form, with such completions or other changes as are necessary to conform the Series 2024 Bond to the terms established at the time of sale of the Series 2024 Bond to the Government, as determined by the President of the Issuer:

REGISTERED UNITED STATES OF AMERICA STATE OF MICHIGAN COUNTY OF VAN BUREN VILLAGE OF MATTAWAN
WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM REVENUE BOND, SERIES 2024 (TAXABLE)

No. R-1 $_____
Registered Owner: United States of America

The Village of Mattawan, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan (the "Issuer"), for value received, hereby promises to pay to the Registered Owner hereof, but only out of the hereinafter described Net Revenues of the Issuer's water supply system including all appurtenances, additions, extensions and improvements thereto (the "System"), the sum of _____ Dollars on the dates and in the principal installment amounts set forth in Exhibit A attached hereto and made a part hereof with interest on said installments from the date each installment is delivered to the Issuer and as set forth on the registration grid hereon until paid at the rate of (___percent %) per annum, first payable on _____ 1, 20 , and semiannually thereafter; provided that the principal repayments required herein to the registered owner shall not exceed the total of the principal installments set forth on the registration grid attached hereto from time to time hereafter to acknowledge receipt of payment of the purchase price of this bond up to a total of $_____. Both principal of and interest on this bond are payable in lawful money of the United States of America to the registered owner at the address shown on the Issuer's registration books by check or draft mailed to the registered holder at the address shown on the registration books of the Issuer, and for the prompt payment thereof, the revenues of the System, after provision has been made for reasonable and necessary expenses of operation, administration and maintenance thereof (the "Net Revenues"), are hereby irrevocably pledged and a statutory lien thereon is hereby recognized and created that is of equal standing and priority of lien as to the Net Revenues with the Issuer's Water Supply System Revenue Refunding Bond, Series 2021, dated December 7, 2021, issued pursuant to Ordinance No. 1108-21 (the "Outstanding Bond") and any bonds issued of equal standing and priority of lien with the Outstanding Bond.

This bond is a single, fully-registered, non-convertible bond constituting an issue in the total aggregate principal sum of $_____, issued pursuant to Ordinance No. and Ordinance No. 1108-21 (together, the "Ordinance"), and under and in full compliance with the Constitution and statutes of the State of Michigan, including specifically Act 94, Public Acts of Michigan, 1933, as amended, for the purpose of acquiring and constructing improvements to the System, together with related sites, structures, equipment, appurtenances and attachments thereto. For a complete statement of the revenues from which, and the conditions under which, this bond is payable, a statement of the conditions under which additional bonds of equal standing with this bond may hereafter be issued, and the general covenants and provisions pursuant to which this bond is issued, reference is made to the Ordinance.

This bond is a self-liquidating bond and is not a general obligation of the Issuer and does not constitute an indebtedness of the Issuer within any constitutional, statutory or charter debt limitation, but is payable, both as to principal and interest, from the Net Revenues of the System. The principal of and interest on the bond is secured by the statutory lien herein before mentioned.

Principal installments of this bond are subject to prepayment prior to maturity, in inverse chronological order, at the Issuer's option, on any date on or after _____1, 20 , at par and accrued interest to the date fixed for prepayment.

Thirty days' notice of the call of any principal installments for prepayment shall be given by mail to the registered owner at the registered address. The principal installments so called for prepayment shall not bear interest after the date fixed for prepayment, provided funds are on hand to prepay said installments.

This bond shall be registered as to principal and interest on the books of the Issuer kept by the Issuer's Treasurer or successor or written designee as bond registrar and transfer agent (the "Transfer Agent") and noted hereon, after which it shall be transferable only upon presentation to the Transfer Agent with a written transfer by the registered owner or his attorney in fact. Such transfer shall be noted hereon and upon the books of the Issuer kept for that purpose by the Transfer Agent.

The Issuer has covenanted and agreed and does hereby covenant and agree to fix and maintain at all times while any bonds including any installments of this bond payable from the Net Revenues of the System shall be outstanding, such rates for service furnished by the System as shall be sufficient to provide for payment of the interest upon and the principal of this bond, the Outstanding Bond, and any additional bonds of equal standing payable from the Net Revenues of the System as and when the same become due and payable, and to create a bond and interest redemption account (including a bond reserve account) therefor, to provide for the payment of expenses of administration and operation and such expenses for maintenance of the System as are necessary to preserve the same in good repair and working order, and to provide for such other expenditures and funds for the System as are required by the Ordinance.

It is hereby certified and recited that all acts, conditions and things required by law to be done precedent to and in the issuance of this bond have been done and performed in regular and due time and form as required by law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Village of Mattawan, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, by its Village Council, has caused this bond to be signed in its name by its President and to be countersigned by its Village Clerk, and its corporate seal to be hereunto affixed, all as of _____ ,2024.

VILLAGE OF MATTAWAN COUNTY OF VAN BUREN STATE OF MICHIGAN
By_____ Its President

(Seal) Countersigned:
By _____Its Village Clerk

REGISTRATION NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN HEREON EXCEPT BY THE BOND REGISTRAR/TRANSFER AGENT

Date of Registration of Delivery	Name of Registered Owner	Principal Installment Delivered	Signature of Bond Registrar/ Transfer Agent
	United States of America		
	United States of America		
	United States of America		
	United States of America		

EXHIBIT A

June 1	Amount	June 1	Amount	June 1	Amount	June 1	Amount	June 1	Amount	June 1	Amount	June 1	Amount	June 1	Amount
2025	$81,000	2030	90,000	2035	99,000	2040	109,000	2045	$121,000	2050	133,000	2055	147,000	2060	163,000
2026	83,000	2031	92,000	2036	101,000	2041	112,000	2046	123,000	2051	136,000	2056	150,000	2061	166,000
2027	85,000	2032	93,000	2037	103,000	2042	114,000	2047	126,000	2052	139,000	2057	153,000	2062	169,000
2028	86,000	2033	95,000	2038	105,000	2043	116,000	2048	128,000	2053	142,000	2058	156,000	2063	172,000
2029	88,000	2034	97,000	2039	$107,000	2044	118,000	2049	131,000	2054	144,000	2059	$159,000	2064	178,000

Section 10. Security for the Series 2024 Bond. The Series 2024 Bond and the interest thereon shall be payable from the Net Revenues, and to secure such payment, there is hereby created a statutory lien upon the whole of the Net Revenues which shall be equal in standing and priority of lien as to the Net Revenues with the Outstanding Bond to continue until payment in full of the principal of and interest on the Series 2024 Bond and said Net Revenues shall be set aside for the purpose and identified as the Bond and Interest Redemption Account as hereinafter provided.

Section 11. Budget. Immediately upon the effective date of this Ordinance for the remainder of the current Fiscal Year, and thereafter prior to the beginning of each Fiscal Year, the Issuer shall prepare an annual budget for the System for the ensuing Fiscal Year itemized on the basis of monthly requirements. A copy of such budget shall be mailed to the Government without request from the Government for review prior to adoption (as long as the Government is the registered owner of the Series 2024 Bond), and upon written request to any other registered owners of the Series 2024 Bond.

Section 12. Custodian of Funds; Funds. The Issuer's Treasurer shall be custodian of all funds belonging to or associated with the System and such funds shall be deposited in the Depository Bank. The Issuer's Treasurer shall execute a fidelity bond with a surety company in an amount at least equal to the maximum annual debt service for the Series 2024 Bond.

The Issuer's Treasurer is hereby directed to create and maintain the following funds and accounts into which the proceeds of the Series 2024 Bond and the Revenues from the System shall be deposited in the manner and at the times provided in this Ordinance, which funds and accounts shall be established and maintained, except as otherwise provided, so long as the Series 2024 Bond hereby authorized remain unpaid.

(A) CONSTRUCTION ACCOUNT. The proceeds of the Series 2024 Bond hereby authorized shall be deposited in the WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM CONSTRUCTION ACCOUNT (the "Construction Account"), in the Depository Bank. Moneys in the Construction Account shall be used solely for the purposes for which the Series 2024 Bond is issued. If monies other than proceeds of the Series 2024 Bond are deposited into the Construction Account, then the monies constituting proceeds of the Series 2024 Bond shall be accounted separately from such other funds or monies.

Any unexpended balance of the proceeds of sale of the Series 2024 Bond remaining after completion of the Project herein authorized may in the discretion of the Issuer be used for further improvements, enlargements and extensions to the System, provided that at the time of such expenditure such use be approved by the Department of Treasury (if such approval is then required by law) and by the Government. Any remaining balance after such expenditure shall be paid into the Bond and Interest Redemption Account and used as soon as is practical for the prepayment of installments of the Series 2024 Bond or for the purchase of the Series 2024 Bond at not more than the fair market value thereof. Following completion of the Project, any unexpended balance of the Series 2024 Bond shall be invested at a yield not to exceed the yield on the Series 2024 Bond.

After completion of the Project and disposition of remaining proceeds, if any, of the Series 2024 Bond pursuant to the provisions of this Section, the Construction Account shall be closed.

(B) WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM RECEIVING FUND. The Revenues of the System shall continue to be set aside in the WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM RECEIVING ACCOUNT (the "Receiving Account") established pursuant to the Outstanding Ordinance, and moneys so deposited therein shall be transferred, expended and used only in the manner and order as follows:

(1) Operation and Maintenance Account. Revenues of the System shall continue to be transferred each quarter of the Fiscal Year from the Receiving Account to the OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT (the "Operation and Maintenance Account"), established pursuant to the Outstanding Ordinance, to pay the reasonable and necessary current expenses of administration and operating and maintaining the System for the ensuing quarter as described in the Outstanding Ordinance.

(2) Bond and Interest Redemption Account. There is hereby continued and maintained a separate account designated as the BOND AND INTEREST REDEMPTION ACCOUNT (the "Bond and Interest Redemption Account"). In addition to the requirements of the Outstanding Ordinance, after the transfer required in (1) above, Revenues shall be transferred each quarter of the Fiscal Year, commencing October 1, 2024, from the Receiving Account, before any other expenditures or transfer therefrom, and deposited in the Bond and Interest Redemption Account for payment of principal of and interest on the Series 2024 Bond and to fund the Bond Reserve Account, in the amounts and at the times specified below.

Upon any delivery of an installment of the Series 2024 Bond there shall be set aside at the time of delivery and on the first day of each quarter of the Fiscal Year thereafter to the next interest payment date an amount equal to that fraction of the amount of interest due on the next interest payment date on said installment so delivered, the numerator of which is 1 and the denominator of which is the number of full and partial Fiscal Year quarters from the date of said delivery to the next interest payment date. There shall be set aside each Fiscal Year quarter on or after October 1, 2024, an amount not less than 1/2 of the amount of interest due on the next interest payment date on all outstanding installments of the Series 2024 Bond not delivered during the then current interest payment period.

Upon any delivery of an installment of the Series 2024 Bond there shall be set aside at the time of such delivery and on the first day of each quarter of the Fiscal Year thereafter to the next principal payment date an amount equal to that fraction of the amount of principal due on the next principal payment date on said installment so delivered, the numerator of which is 1 and the denominator of which is the number of full and partial Fiscal Year quarters from the date of said delivery to the next principal payment date. There shall also be set aside each Fiscal Year quarter on or after October 1, 2024, an amount not less than 1/4 of the amount of principal due on the next principal payment date. Except as hereinafter provided, no further deposits shall be made into the Bond and Interest Redemption Account (excluding the Bond Reserve Account) once the aforesaid sums have been deposited therein. Any amount on deposit in the Bond and Interest Redemption Account (excluding the Bond Reserve Account) in excess of(a.) the amount needed for payment of principal installments of the Series 2024 Bond for the then current principal payment period, plus (b.) interest on the Series 2024 Bond for the then current interest payment period, shall be used by the Issuer for redemption of principal installments of the Series 2024 Bond in the manner set forth in Section 10 hereof, if such use is impracticable, shall be deposited in or credited to the Receiving Account.

If for any reason there is a failure to make such quarterly deposit in the amounts required, then the entire amount of the deficiency shall be set aside and deposited in the Bond and Interest Redemption Account out of the Revenues first received thereafter which are not required by the Outstanding Ordinance and this Ordinance to be deposited in the Operation and Maintenance Account or in the Bond and Interest Redemption Account, which amount shall be in addition to the regular quarterly deposit required during such succeeding quarter or quarters.

There is hereby established in the Bond and Interest Redemption Account a separate account designated as the BOND RESERVE ACCOUNT. Commencing with the Fiscal Year quarter beginning on October 1, 2024, there shall be withdrawn from the Receiving Account on the first day of each Fiscal Year quarter and set aside in and transferred to the Bond Reserve Account, after provision has been made for the Operation and Maintenance Account and the current requirements of the Bond and Interest Redemption Account, the sum of at least

$4,837.50 per quarter ($19,350 annually) until there is accumulated in such account the lesser of the sum of $193,500 or the Reserve Amount. Except as hereinafter provided, no further deposits shall be made into the Bond Reserve Account pursuant to the requirements of this Ordinance once the lesser of the sum of $193,500 or the Reserve Amount for the Series 2024 Bond has been deposited therein. The moneys in the Bond Reserve Account shall be used solely for the payment of the principal installments of and interest on the Series 2024 Bond as to which there would otherwise be default; provided, however, that in the event the amount on deposit in the Bond Reserve Account exceeds the amount then required to be on deposit therein pursuant to the requirements of this Ordinance, the moneys in excess of such requirements shall be used to pay principal installments of and interest on the Series 2024 Bond on the next payment date.

If at any time it shall be necessary to use moneys in the Bond Reserve Account for such payment, then the moneys so used shall be replaced from the Net Revenues first received thereafter which are not required by this Ordinance to be used for operation and maintenance or for current principal and interest requirements for the Series 2024 Bond.

No further transfers or deposits for payment of the principal of or interest on the Series 2024 Bond need be made into the Bond and Interest Redemption Account after enough of the principal installments of the Series 2024 Bond have been retired so that the amount then held in the Bond and Interest Redemption Account (including the Bond Reserve Account), is equal to the entire amount of principal and interest which will be payable at the time of maturity of all the principal installments of the Series 2024 Bond then remaining outstanding.

The moneys in the Bond and Interest Redemption Account and the Bond Reserve Account shall be invested in accordance with Section 13 of this Ordinance, and profit realized or income earned on such investment shall be used or transferred as provided in Section 13 of this Ordinance.

(3) Repair, Replacement and Improvement Account. There is hereby established and there shall be maintained a separate account designated REPAIR, REPLACEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT ACCOUNT (the "RRI Account"). After the transfers required in (1) and (2) above, and so long as any principal installments of the Series 2024 Bond remain outstanding, commencing October 1, 2024, Revenues shall be transferred on the first day of each Fiscal Year quarter from the Receiving Account and deposited in the RRI Account in an amount not less than $6,333.25 ($25,333 annually). Moneys in the RRI Account shall be used and disbursed only for the purpose of paying the cost of (a) repairing any damage to and emergency maintenance of the System, (b) repairing or replacing obsolete, deteriorating, deteriorated or wom out portions of the System, (c) acquiring and constructing extensions and improvements to the System and (d) when necessary, for the purpose of making payment of principal and interest on the Series 2024 Bond. If the amount in the Bond and Interest Redemption Account and the Bond Reserve Account is not sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the Series 2024 Bond when due, the moneys in the RRI Account shall be transferred to the Bond and Interest Redemption Account and used for that purpose. Moneys in the RRI Account may be invested in accordance with Section 13 of this Ordinance.

If the Government shall, at a future date, consent to eliminate the requirement for funding of the RRI Account, then the Issuer may, but shall not be required to, maintain the RRI Account. In such event, the Issuer may, after the transfers required by paragraphs (B)(1) and (B)(2) above, deposit in the RRI Account from Revenues of the System such amounts as the Issuer deems advisable, and the moneys credited thereto may be used for the purpose of making repairs, replacements, improvements, enlargements or extensions of the System as the Issuer deems advisable.

(4) Reverse Flow of Funds; Surplus Money. In the event the moneys in the Receiving Account are insufficient to provide for the current requirements of the Operation and Maintenance Account, the Bond and Interest Redemption Account (including the Bond Reserve Account) or the RRI Account, any moneys and/or securities in the funds of the System described by this Ordinance shall be transferred, first, to the Operation and Maintenance Account, second, the Bond and Interest Redemption Account, and third, to the RRI Account.

All moneys remaining in the Receiving Account at the end of any Fiscal Year after satisfying the above requirements for the deposit of moneys into the Operation and Maintenance Account and the Bond and Interest Redemption Account may be transferred to the Bond and Interest Redemption Account and used to call the Series 2024 Bond or portions thereof for redemption.

Section 13. Investments. Moneys in the funds and accounts established herein and moneys derived from the proceeds of sale of the Series 2024 Bond may be invested by the legislative body of the Issuer on behalf of the Issuer in the obligations and instruments permitted for investment by Section 24 of Act 94, as the same may be amended from time to time; provided, however, that as long as the Series 2024 Bond is held by the Government, then the investment may be limited to the obligations and instruments authorized by the Government. Investment of moneys in the Bond and Interest Redemption Account being accumulated for payment on the next maturing principal or interest payment on the Series 2024 Bond shall be limited to obligations and instruments bearing maturity dates prior to the date of the next maturing principal or interest payment on the Series 2024 Bond. Investment of moneys in the Bond Reserve Account shall be limited to Government obligations and instruments bearing maturity dates or subject to redemption, at the option of the holder thereof, not later than five (5) years from the date of the investment. In the event investments are made, any securities representing the same shall be kept on deposit with the Depository Bank. Interest income earned on investment of funds in the Receiving Account, the Operation and Maintenance Account and the Bond and Interest Redemption Account (except the Bond Reserve Account), shall be deposited in or credited to the Receiving Account. Interest income earned on the investment of funds in the Bond Reserve Account shall be deposited in the Bond and Interest Redemption Account.

Section 14. Rates and Charges. Rates and charges for the services of the System have been fixed by ordinance in an amount sufficient to pay the costs of operating, maintaining and administering the System, to pay the principal of and interest on the Series 2024 Bond and the Outstanding Bond and to meet the requirements for repair, replacement, reconstruction and improvement and all other requirements provided in the Outstanding Ordinance and this Ordinance. The Issuer hereby covenants and agrees to fix and maintain at all times while the Series 2024 Bond shall be outstanding such rates for service furnished by the System as shall be sufficient to provide for the foregoing expenses, requirements and covenants, and to create a Bond and Interest Redemption Account (including a Bond Reserve Account) for the Series 2024 Bond and the Outstanding Bond. The rates and charges for all services and facilities rendered by the System shall be reasonable and just, taking into consideration the cost and value of the System and the cost of maintaining, repairing, and operating the same and the amounts necessary for the retirement of the Series 2024 Bond, and accruing interest on the Series 2024 Bond, and there shall be charged such rates and charges as shall be adequate to meet the requirements of this Section and Section 12 of this Ordinance.

Section 15. No Free Service. No free service shall be furnished by the System to any individual, firm or corporation, public or private or to any public agency or instrumentality.

Section 16. Covenants. The Issuer covenants and agrees, so long as the Series 2024 Bond hereby authorized remain unpaid, as follows:

(a) It will comply with applicable State laws and regulations and continually operate and maintain the System in good condition.

(b)(i) It will maintain complete books and records relating to the operation and financial affairs of the System. If the Government is the holder of the Series 2024 Bond, the Government shall have the right to inspect the System and the records, accounts, and data relating thereto at all reasonable times.

(ii) It will cause an annual audit of such books of record and account for the preceding Fiscal Year to be made each year by a recognized independent certified public accountant, and will cause such accountant to mail a copy of such audit to the Government, without request of the Government. Such audit shall be completed and so made available not later than six months after the close of each Fiscal Year.

(c) It will maintain and carry, for the benefit of the holders of the Series 2024 Bond, insurance on all physical properties of the System, of the kinds and in the amounts normally carried by municipalities engaged in the operation of similar systems. The amount of the insurance shall be approved by the Government. All moneys received for losses under any such insurance policies shall be applied solely to the replacement and restoration of the property damaged or destroyed, and to the extent not so used, shall be used for the purpose of calling the Series 2024 Bond and the Outstanding Bond.

(d) It will not voluntarily dispose of or transfer its title to the System or any part thereof, including lands and interest in land, sale, mortgage, lease or other encumbrances, without obtaining the prior written consent of the Government.

(e) Any extensions to or improvements of the System shall be made according to sound engineering principles and specifications shall be submitted to the Government for prior review.

Section 17. Ordinance Shall Constitute Contract. The provisions of this Ordinance shall constitute a contract between the Issuer and the bondholders and after the issuance of the Series 2024 Bond this Ordinance shall not be repealed or amended in any respect which will adversely affect the rights and interests of the holders nor shall the Issuer adopt any law, ordinance or resolution in any way adversely affecting the rights of the holders so long as the Series 2024 Bond or interest thereon remains unpaid.

Section 18. Refunding of the Series 2024 Bond. If at any time it shall appear to the Government that the Issuer is able to refund upon call for redemption or with consent of the Government the then outstanding the Series 2024 Bond by obtaining a loan for such purposes from responsible cooperative or private credit sources at reasonable rates and terms for loans for similar purposes and periods of time, the Issuer will, upon request of the Government, apply for and accept such loan in sufficient amount to repay the Government, and will take all such actions as may be required in connection with such loans.

Section 19. Default of Issuer. If there shall be default in the Bond and Interest Redemption Account, provisions of this Ordinance or in the payment of principal of or interest on any of the Series 2024 Bond, upon the filing of a suit by 20 percent of the holders of the Series 2024 Bond, any court having jurisdiction of the action may appoint a receiver to administer the System on behalf of the Issuer with power to charge and collect rates sufficient to provide for the payment of the Series 2024 Bond and for the payment of operation, maintenance and administrative expenses and to apply Revenues in accordance with this Ordinance and the laws of the State of Michigan.

The Issuer hereby agrees to transfer to any bona fide receiver or other subsequent operator of the System, pursuant to any valid court order in a proceeding brought to enforce collection or payment of the Issuer's obligations, all contracts and other rights of the Issuer, conditionally, for such time only as such receiver or operation shall operate by authority of the court.

The holders of 20 percent of the then outstanding principal amount of the Series 2024 Bond in the event of default may require by mandatory injunction the raising of rates in a reasonable amount.

Section 20. Ordinance Subject to Michigan Law and Government Regulations. The provisions of this Ordinance are subject to the laws of the State of Michigan and to the present and future regulations of the Government not inconsistent with the express provisions hereof and Michigan law.

Section 21. Fiscal Year of System. The fiscal year for operating the System shall be the Fiscal Year.

Section 22. Issuer Subject to Loan Resolution. So long as the Government is holder of any of the Series 2024 Bond, the Issuer shall be subject to the loan resolution (RUS Bulletin 1780-27) and shall comply with all provisions thereof.

Section 23. Covenant Not to Defease. So long as the Government is the holder of any of the Series 2024 Bond, the Issuer covenants that it will not defease the Series 2024 Bond held by the Government.

Section 24. Conflict and Severability. All ordinances, resolutions and orders or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are to the extent of such conflict hereby repealed, and each section of this Ordinance and each subdivision of any section hereof is hereby declared to be independent, and the finding or holding of any section or subdivision thereof to be invalid or void shall not be deemed or held to affect the validity of any other section or subdivision of this Ordinance.

Section 25. Paragraph Headings. The paragraph headings in this Ordinance are furnished for convenience of reference only and shall not be considered to be a part of this Ordinance.

Section 26. Publication and Recordation. This Ordinance shall be published in full in the Courier Leader, a newspaper of general circulation in the Issuer, qualified under State law to publish legal notices, promptly after its adoption, and the same shall be recorded in the Ordinance Book of the Issuer and such recording authenticated by the signatures of the President and the Village Clerk.

Section 28. Authorizations. The President is authorized to file with the Michigan Department of Treasury an application for approval to issue the Series 2024 Bond, and pay the fee required, if any, and to request all applicable waivers relating to the Series 2024 Bond. The President, the Village Clerk, and the Treasurer are each authorized and directed to execute and deliver all other agreements, documents and certificates and to take all other actions necessary to complete the issuance and delivery of the Series 2024 Bond in accordance with this Ordinance.

Section 29. Certain Determinations. The President, the Village Clerk and the Treasurer are each hereby authorized to adjust the final Bond details set forth herein to the extent necessary or convenient to complete the transactions authorized herein, and in pursuance of the foregoing each is authorized to exercise the authority and make the determinations authorized pursuant to Section 7a(1)(c) of Act 94, including but not limited to determinations regarding interest rates, prices, discounts, maturities, principal amounts, denominations, dates of issuance, interest payment dates, redemption rights, the place of delivery and payment, and other matters, provided that the aggregate principal amount of the Series 2024 Bond issued hereunder shall not exceed

$4,910,000 and the interest rate on the Series 2024 Bond shall not exceed two percent (2.00%) per annum. The President, the Village Clerk and the Treasurer are each authorized to confirm the terms of the sale of the Series 2024 Bond issued hereunder and final bond specifications with respect to such bond by the execution of the form of bond and/or an appropriate form or sale order acceptable to bond counsel.

The Issuer determines to sell the Series 2024 Bond to the Government at a negotiated sale in order to obtain terms not generally available from conventional municipal bond market sources and for the opportunities provided by a negotiated sale to the Government to select and adjust the terms of the Series 2024 Bond, including the prepayment of the principal of the Series 2024 Bond at any time without premium.

Section 30. Effective Date. This Ordinance is hereby determined by the Village Council to be immediately necessary for the preservation of the peace, health and safety of the Issuer and shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as required by law.

Passed and adopted by the Village of Mattawan, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, on May 13, 2024.

Donald Cole President

(Seal) Attest: Terri McLean

I hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of an Ordinance duly adopted by the Village Council of the Village of Mattawan, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, at a special meeting held on the 13th day of May, 2024, and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required by said Act.

I further certify that the following Members were present at said meeting: Bedean, Cole, D niel He gdspeth, McLean Smith,Stuut and that the following Members were absent: None

I further certify that Member Smtih moved adoption of said Ordinance, and that said motion was supported by Member Daniel

I further certify that the following Members voted for adoption of said Ordinance:

Begeman, Cole Daniel Hedgspeth, McLean, Smith, Stuut and that the following Members voted against adoption of said Ordinance: None

I further certify that said Ordinance has been recorded in the Ordinance Book and that such recording has been authenticated by the signatures of the President and the Village Clerk.

PUBLIC NOTICES

State of Michigan Probate Court
Van Buren County
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
DECEDENT'S ESTATE
CASE NO. 2024-1068-DE
JUDGE Hon. Susan Metzger (P62867)
ESTATE OF
ARLIE CHESTER HAMMON III, Deceased, Date of Birth: September 22, 1954 (9/22/1954)
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent,Arlie Chester Hammon III, died March 27, 2024 (3/27/2024). Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **Stephanie Eversley,** personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 E. Paw Paw St., Suite 220, Paw Paw, MI 49079 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

May 17, 2024

Attorney:
Thav, Ryke & Associates
Daniel Relle P85557
24725 W. 12 Mile Road
Suite 110
Southfield, MI 48034
248-945-1111

Personal Representative(s):
Stephanie Eversley
15130 Hollyside Dr.
Dumfries, VA 22035
757-282-1392

State of Michigan 36th Judicial Circuit - Family Division Van Buren County
PUBLICATION OF HEARING (NOTICE TO PUTATIVE FATHER)
Case No. 24-019974-NA
Petition No. 01
Judge Hon. Jeffrey Dufon
Court 212 E. Paw Paw St.,
Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-657-8236
IN THE MATTER OF: RAINUH COOK, MINOR
TAKE NOTICE: FATHER OF RAINUH COOK
A petition has been filed with this court regarding the following minor(s):
Rainuh Cook who was born on **March 18,2024 (3/18/2024) at Grand Rapids, Michigan.**
The mother of the minor(s) is Lacey Mason. If you are or may be the natural father, you should appear at **Courtroom 2, 212 E. Paw Paw St., Paw Paw, MI 49079 on June 12,2024 (6/12/2024) at 3:00 P.M.** to state any interest you may have in the minor(s).
Failure to appear at this hearing is a denial of interest in the minor(s), waiver of notice for all subsequent hearings, and a waiver of a right to appointment of an attorney. Failure to appear at this hearing **COULD RESULT IN PERMANENT TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS.**

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 p.m., on May 30, 2024. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY. Default has occurred in the conditions of a Mortgage (the "Mortgage") made by Starlight Productions LLC, a Michigan Limited Liability Company, as Mortgagor(s), to Honor Credit Union as Mortgagee. The Mortgage is dated June 23, 2023 and was recorded June 27, 2023 at Liber1754 Page 127 of Van Buren County Records. The amount claimed to be due on said Mortgage and unpaid at the date of this Notice is THREE HUNDRED FIFTEEN THOUSAND SIXTY-TWO AND 55/100 ($315,062.55) DOLLARS, including interest on the applicable indebtedness at a rate of 9.00% per annum. This sum will increase as additional interest, costs, expenses, and attorney fees accrue under the Mortgage and its related note and which are permitted under Michigan law after the date of this Notice. No legal or equitable proceedings have been instituted to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage, and the power of sale in the Mortgage has become operative by reason of the default. At the date and time as referenced previously in this Notice, the Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the property herein described, or some part of them, at public auction, to the highest bidder, for the purpose of satisfying the amount due and unpaid on the Mortgage, along with interest due, the legal costs and charges of sale as allowed by statute and/or the Mortgage, and any taxes and insurance that the Mortgagee pays on or prior to the date of said sale. The property mentioned and described in the Mortgage, as located in the Township of Hartford, County of Van Buren, and State of Michigan, are more particularly described as follows: Commencing in the center of the Watervliet Road, later known as Highway U.S. 12 and now known as Red Arrow Highway, at a point 2129.58 feet Easterly from the West line of Section 19, Town 3 South, Range 16 West, Hartford Township, Van Buren County, according to the Government Survey thereof; thence South 00 degrees 37 minutes 20 seconds East 756.48 feet; thence East 337.72 feet; thence North 56 degrees 28 minutes 20 seconds East 224.70 feet; thence North 275.58 feet; thence North 61 degrees 35 minutes 30 seconds West 343.12 feet; thence North 260.25 feet to the center of said highway; thence Westerly in the center of same 260 feet to beginning; Address: 69107 Red Arrow Hwy., Hartford, MI 49057; Tax Parcel No.: 80-11-019-001-00; together with all existing or subsequently erected or affixed buildings, improvements, and fixtures, including all mobile or manufactured homes on the premises; all easements, rights of way, streets, roads, alleys, and public places, privileges, and appurtenances, public or private, now or later used in connection with the premises; and all rights to make divisions of the land that are exempt from the platting requirements of all applicable land division or platting acts, as amended from time to time. Attention Purchasers: the foreclosing Mortgagee reserves the right to cancel the sale prior to sale or to rescind this sale at any time. In that event, your damages, if any, will be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at the sale, plus interest. If the mortgaged property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. The length of the redemption period will be six (6) months from date of sale, unless the redemption period is shortened pursuant to MCL 600.3241a or MCL 600.3238, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of sale or as otherwise provided by statute. DATED: May 2, 2024 ANDREW W. BARNES (P70571) BUTZEL LONG P.C. ATTORNEYS FOR HONOR CREDIT UNION 317 Center Street, South Haven, MI 49090; 269-287-2010

(05-02)(05-23)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE BY ADVERTISEMENT
Default has been made in the condition of a certain Mortgage, made on December 29, 2020, by MOORMANN PRINTING, INC., a Michigan corporation, as Mortgagor, to the VILLAGE OF DECATUR, a Michigan municipal corporation, as Mortgagee. Such Mortgage was recorded on November 16, 2021, in the office of the Register of Deeds for Van Buren County, State of Michigan, at Liber 1729, Page 229. There is claimed to due and owing the sum of TWENTY THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED TWENTY-NINE DOLLARS AND 53/100 ($20,629.53), as of the date of this Notice, plus interest at the rate of 7.00% from and after May 1, 2024, which amount may or may not be the entire indebtedness owed by MOORMANN PRINTING, INC. to the VILLAGE OF DECATUR. No legal or equitable proceeding has been instituted to recover the debt, or any part of the debt, secured by said Mortgage. The power of sale in said Mortgage has become operative by reason of the default, and the Mortgagor hereby declares the entire unpaid amount of said Mortgage to be due and payable. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement: Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 p.m., on June 6, 2024. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. The place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County is the Van Buren County Courthouse, 212 E. Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw, Michigan, 49079. The lands and premises mentioned and described in the Mortgage are as follows: Property located in the Village of Decatur, County of Van Buren, and State of Michigan, described as follows: Commencing at a point on the Easterly line of Phelps Street as it now exists, 72 feet Southerly and 12 feet Easterly at right angles to said street line from the Northwesterly corner of Lot 11, Block "D" of the Village of Decatur, as originally platted and said plat recorded; thence Easterly at right angles to said Phelps Street 90 feet; thence Northerly parallel with said street, 34 feet; thence Westerly at right angles, 60 feet; thence Southerly parallel with said street, 10 feet; thence Westerly at right angles 30 feet; thence Southerly 24 feet to beginning. Being a part of the Northwest quarter of Section 20, Town 4 South, Range 14 West, according to the Government survey thereof. Parcel No. 80-43-040-319-00 Commonly referred to as 121 S. Phelps Street, Decatur, Michigan. The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with with MCl 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the Mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. DATED: May 2, 2024 C. Nicolas Curcio Curcio Law Firm PLC Attorney for Mortgagee 16905 Birchview Drive Nunica, MI 49448 (616) 430-2201

(05-09)(05-30)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in VAN BUREN County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on June 6, 2024. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Kimberly Ann McLaughlin and William Ray McLaughlin, wife and husband, whose address is 39413 6th Avenue, Bloomingdale, Michigan 49026, as original Mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., acting solely as a nominee for Amerifirst Financial Corporation , being a mortgage dated November 4, 2021, and recorded on November 8, 2021 in Liber 1728 Page 752, Van Buren County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated January 22, 2024 and recorded on January 26, 2024 in Liber 1761 Page 344, Van Buren County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-SIX THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED EIGHTY-SIX AND 12/100 DOLLARS ($176,586.12). Said premises are situated in the Township of Bloomingdale, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, and are described as: The West 1/2 of the Northeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of section 10, Town 1 South, range 14 West, according to the government survey thereof. Less and except: Commencing at the center of section 10, Town 1 South, range 14 West; thence North 88° 58'23" West on the East and West 1/4 line, 657.16 feet to the place of beginning of this description; thence South 00° 34'47" West, on the East line of the West 1/2 of the Northeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4, 1319.54 feet to the South line of the North 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4; thence North 88° 58'21" West on same, 657.43 feet to the West line of the West 1/2 of the Northeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4; thence North 00° 35'30" East on same, 720.42 feet; thence South 88° 58'23" East, parallel with the East and West 1/4 line, 357.16 feet; thence North 00° 35'30" East, parallel with the West line of the West 1/2 of the Northeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4, 599.11 feet to the East and West 1/4 line; thence South 88° 58'23" East on same, 300.00 feet to the place of beginning. Street Address: 39413 6th Avenue, Bloomingdale, Michigan 49026 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: May 9, 2024 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Kenneth J. Johnson, Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 5955 West Main Street, Suite 509, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. Telephone: (312) 541-9710. File No.: MI 24 5732

(05-09)(05-30)

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 p.m., on June 13, 2024. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. The Mortgage in default and being foreclosed is described as: Mortgage made by Lucinda Nower, a married woman, as mortgagor, to Nevada Funding LLC, a Nevada limited liability company as mortgagee ("Lender"), dated as of November 4, 2021 and recorded November 29, 2021 in Liber 1729, Page 743, Van Buren County Records, Michigan (the "Mortgage"). The amount due on the Mortgage as of the date of this Notice is $74,883.83. This amount does not reflect the total amount due on the Mortgage for any prepayment obligation due, and some or all of the amounts paid by Lender to collect the debt or to protect its rights under the Mortgage or otherwise due under the Mortgage, and may not reflect all credits attributable to the loan secured by the Mortgage. The Mortgage contains a power of sale and no suit or proceeding at law or in equity has been instituted to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage, or any part of the Mortgage. The public auction described above may be adjourned to a later date; and the specific location within the place of holding of the circuit court where the public auction is held may be designated by the sheriff or deputy sheriff conducting the sale. Lender will apply the sale proceeds to the amount due on the Mortgage as stated above, plus any amount subsequently paid by Lender to protect its interest in the property and interest on the amount due at the rate of 20.99 percent per annum. The mortgaged premises (collectively, the "Mortgaged Property") to be sold at foreclosure sale is located in the Village of Lawrence, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, and is described more particularly as: THE SOUTH 42 FEET OF THE EAST 1/2 OF LOT 3, BLOCK 4, PHELP'S ADDITION TO THE VILLAGE OF LAWRENCE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN VAN BUREN COUNTY RECORDS. ALSO, THE NORTH 33 FEET OF THE EAST 1/2 OF LOT 2, BLOCK 4, OF SAID ADDITION. Commonly known as: 109 North 2nd Street, Lawrence, MI 49064 Tax Parcel No.: 80-44-204-003-00 Together with all tangible personal property and fixtures described in the Mortgage, including, but not limited to, the following: (a) Improvements. Any and all buildings, structures, improvements, fixtures, and appurtenances now and later placed on the Mortgaged Property, including, without limitation, all apparatus and equipment, whether or not physically affixed to the land or any building, which is used to provide or supply air cooling, air conditioning, heat, gas, water, light, power, refrigeration, ventilation, laundry, drying, dish washing, garbage disposal, or other services; and all elevators (if any), escalators (if any), and related machinery and equipment, fire prevention and extinguishing apparatus, security and access control apparatus, partitions, ducts, compressors, plumbing, ovens, refrigerators, dishwashers, disposals, washers, dryers, awnings, storm windows, storm doors, screens, blinds, shades, curtains, curtain rods, mirrors, cabinets, paneling, rugs, attached floor coverings, furniture, pictures, antennas, pools, spas, pool and spa operation and maintenance equipment and apparatus, and trees and plants located on the Mortgaged Property; (b) Fixtures. All right, title, and interest of Borrower in and to all materials, supplies, equipment, apparatus, and other items now or later attached to, installed on or in the Land or the Improvements; (c) Personalty. All of the right, title, and interest of Borrower in and to all tangible personal property, whether now owned or later acquired by Borrower, including, but not limited to, water rights (to the extent they may constitute personal property), all equipment, inventory, goods, consumer goods, accounts, chattel paper, instruments, money, deposit accounts, investment property, documents, minerals, crops, and timber (as those terms are defined in the Michigan Uniform Commercial Code) and that are now or at any later time located on, attached to, installed, placed, used on, in connection with, or are required for such attachment, installation, placement, or use on the Land, the Improvements, Fixtures, or on other goods located on the Land or Improvements, together with all additions, accessions, accessories, amendments, modifications to the Land or Improvements, extensions, renewals, and enlargements and proceeds of the Land or Improvements, substitutions for, and income and profits from, the Land or Improvements. All goods, machinery, tools, equipment (including fire sprinklers and alarm systems); building materials, air conditioning, heating, refrigerating, electronic monitoring, entertainment, recreational, maintenance, extermination of vermin or insects, dust removal, refuse and garbage equipment; vehicle maintenance and repair equipment; office furniture (including tables, chairs, planters, desks, sofas, shelves, lockers, and cabinets); safes, furnishings, appliances (including ice-making machines, refrigerators, fans, water heaters, and incinerators); rugs, carpets, other floor coverings, draperies, drapery rods and brackets, awnings, window shades, venetian blinds, curtains, other window coverings; lamps, chandeliers, other lighting fixtures; office maintenance and other supplies; The tangible personal property and fixtures constituting a part of the Mortgaged Property shall be sold together with the real estate in one foreclosure sale, in accordance with MCL 440.9604(1)(b) and MCL 440.9604(2)(b), respectively. There is no warranty in disposition relating to title, possession, quiet enjoyment, or any other matter as to any or all of the personal property and fixtures described above. The redemption period shall be six months from the date of sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240(8). Pursuant to MCL 600.3212(g), take notice that the mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the Mortgaged Property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the Mortgaged Property during the redemption period, as further provided in MCL 600.3278. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Dated: May 6, 2024 Nevada Funding LLC, a Nevada limited liability company, Lender Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, P.L.C. By: Michael E. Moore Attorneys for Lender 99 Monroe Avenue NW, Suite 1200 Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503 (616) 776-6323 158311-00009 (05-09)(06-06)

(05-09)(06-06)

ATTENTION HOMEOWNER:
If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on JUNE 13, 2024. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Sawyer Stephan Brown, an unmarried man, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for VanDyk Mortgage Corporation, its successors and assigns, Mortgagee, dated October 8, 2021 and recorded October 21, 2021 in Liber 1727, Page 827 Van Buren County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Twenty-Seven Thousand Two Hundred Twenty-Six and 51/100 Dollars ($127,226.51).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on JUNE 13, 2024.
Said premises are located in the Village of Bloomingdale, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:
Commencing at the Northeast corner of Lot(s) 102 of MAP OF THE VILLAGE OF BLOOMINGDALE according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 25 of Deeds, Page 10 of Van Buren County Records; thence South 53 feet; thence West 66 feet; thence North 53 feet; thence East 66 feet to the place of beginning.
210 N Van Buren Street, Bloomingdale, Michigan 49026
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: May 16, 2024
File No. 24-004443
Firm Name: Orlans PC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(05-16)(06-06)

PAW PAW TOWNSHIP
SYNOPSIS OF MEETING
May 13, 2024, Meeting Minutes
Meeting Called to Order by Supervisor Palenick 6:00 P.M.
Board Members Present: Thomas Palenick, Lisa Zinkil, Matthew Miller, Rebecca Payne
Absent: Fran Sanders
Guest Present: Mark Root, Catherine Kaughman, Jim Degroff, Dennis and Kimberly Rennolds, Brian Stump, Erica Haselberger, and Emily Hickmont.

- Approved April 8, 2024, meeting minutes.
- Approved agenda as presented with one correction and one addition.
- Approved use of parking lot on Saturday of Paw Paw Days.
- Approved two-year contract with Appraisals Plus Group.
- Approved 2nd annual "Voices of the Past" event at Prospect Hill Cemetery.
- Approved contribution of $1,500 to Van Buren County Resource and Recovery Program.
- Approved Ordinance 287 an amendment to the Zoning ordinance.
- Approved Ordinance 288 allowing Short Term Rentals with permit.
- Approved Supervisor Authorization to seek bids and execute paperwork for Sewer rate study not to exceed $20,000.
- Approved resolution R240513-3 Fire operating Millage language.
- Approved resolution R240513-2 Road millage language.

Meeting Adjourned 7:24 P.M.
Rebecca F. Payne, Clerk

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES
PAW PAW TOWNSHIP
VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF PAW PAW TOWNSHIP, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the following is a summary of Ordinances No. 287 and No. 288 which were adopted by the Paw Paw Township Board at a regular meeting held on May 13, 2024.

ORDINANCE 287 – ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1 Chapter 42, Attachment 3, Table of Dimensions. This section amends Attachment 3, Table of Dimensions to amends note 5 re buildable lot requirements.

SECTION 2 Chapter 42, Attachment 3, Table of Dimensions. This section amends Attachment 3, Table of Dimensions to include note 9 regarding side setbacks.

SECTION 3 Chapter 42, Sec. 42-9.13(D)(2). This section is amended regarding provisions for off street parking requirements, alternative surface waivers.

SECTION 4 Chapter 42, Article 9. This section amended Article 9 by adding a new Section 9.24 regarding recreational vehicles.

SECTION 5 Severability. The provisions of this Ordinance are severable.

SECTION 6 Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect seven days after publication after adoption.

ORDINANCE 288 – SHORT TERM RENTAL ORDINANCE

SECTION 1 Addition of New Chapter 41 Short Term Rentals. This section adds a new Chapter 41 to the Code of Ordinances, Short Term Rentals, which includes provisions regulating the short term rental of dwellings in the Township, including the purpose, definitions, applicability of regulations, registration for short term rentals, rental requirements, inspections, safety equipment, violations and revocation of registration.

SECTION 2 Repeal. All ordinances in conflict are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3 Severability. The provisions of this Ordinance are severable.

SECTION 4 Savings Clause. Currently pending legal proceedings are not affected by this Ordinance and may proceed to resolution.

SECTION 5 Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect thirty days after publication after adoption.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the full text of both Ordinances has been posted in the Office of the Township Clerk at the address set forth below and that a copy of either Ordinance may be purchased or inspected at the office of the Township Clerk during regular business hours of regular working days following the date of this publication.

PAW PAW TOWNSHIP
Rebecca Payne, Clerk
114 N. Gremps Street
Paw Paw, MI 49079
(269) 657-4340

Public Notices

NOTICE OF PAW PAW TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS

The Paw Paw Township Board of Trustees approved the following amendments to the Paw Paw Township Zoning Ordinance:

1. Amend Attachment 3, Table of Dimensions, to amend the setback requirements for the Waterfront Area zoning district.
2. Amend Attachment 3, Table of Dimensions, to amend the setback requirements for the Low Density Residential zoning district.
3. Amend Section 42-9.12 (D)(2) to clarify parking lot surface requirements and conditions for granting waivers.
4. Amend Article 9 to include a new Section 9.24 to regulate the parking and placement of recreational vehicles intended for camping or travel purposes.

Copies of related materials and the full Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map are available for review at the Paw Paw Township Hall during regular business hours (114 N. Gremps St., Paw Paw, MI, 49079). Relevant information is available by request- call 269-657-4340 or email clerk@pawpawtownship.org.

Planning Commission Public Hearing: February 20, 2024
Township Board Adoption: May 13, 2024
Publication Date: May 23, 2024
Effective Date: May 30, 2024

Mattawan gets set for Memorial Day Car Show

MATTAWAN - The Mattawan Memorial Day Car Show, with over 300-plus cars and trucks on display, will be held at Freightliner of Kalamazoo, 53449 N. Main St., Mattawan.

Proceeds from this year's event will go to the Mattawan High School's Rocket Team and their mission to bring STEM opportunities to all students.

The show will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., with registration from 7 to 9 a.m. Awards will be given out at the show's conclusion at 1 p.m.

Event registration is $15 through May 26, and $20 on event day, 7 to 9 a.m. Space is limited. The event is free to spectators, along with free parking. A free magnet-backed dash plaque and swag bag will be given out to the first 150 cars registered. T-shirts at $20 each will be limited first come, first served for extras day of the show.

Trophies will be handed out for the following: Most Unique, Newest, Oldest, Best Original/ Stock, Sponsor's Choice, People's Choice, Kids' Choice, Best Off-Road, Best Daily Driver, and Out of this World.

Coffee and Donuts will be available for registrants.

Food trucks will be on site.

Adventure begins at the Van Buren District Library

DECATUR - Starting Saturday, June 8, the Van Buren District Library extends an invitation to everyone to pick up a reading log and begin a great summer adventure. This year's summer reading program theme, "Adventure Begins at Your Library," promises a summer packed with excitement and Exploration, according to a press release from VBDL. The program is open to all ages, from newborns to senior citizens. Participants can read, earn prizes, and attend events at any of the library's branches throughout the summer. The program continues until Saturday, Aug. 3.

For more details about the Summer Reading Program or any other library services, visit VBDL.org, e-mail info@vbdl.org, or call (269) 423-4771.

Van Buren District Library is headquartered in Decatur with branches in Bangor, Bloomingdale,

like us on facebook

ARLINGTON TOWNSHIP IS ADVERTISING FOR A ZONING ADMINISTRATOR.

Arlington is a rural/agriculture township bordering the City of Bangor in Van Buren County MI.
Working knowledge of zoning ordinances is needed.
For a complete job description please contact:
Clerk@arlingtontownship.com or
Supevisor@arlingtontownship.com
Applications can be mailed or emailed to
Clerk@arlingtontownship.com
or postal mail
Arlington Township/ Zoning Administrator,
Arlington Clerk,
52022 34th Ave.,
Bangor, MI 49013

Georgette Peterson
Clerk

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PORTER TOWNSHIP, VAN BUREN COUNTY

NOTICE OF HEARING TO REAFFIRM THE TOWNSHIP-WIDE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

FOR THE COST OF CONSTRUCTION, IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ROADS LOCATED IN THE TOWNSHIP

The Porter Township Board, having previously established a township-wide Special Assessment District for the cost of construction, improvement, and maintenance of public roads located in the township, **HEREBY sets a public hearing for Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at 6:45 p.m. at the Porter Township Hall, 88040 M-40 Highway, Lawton, Michigan.**

The Porter Township Board will be in session to discuss and hear comments which may be offered regarding the re-affirmation of the township-wide special assessment in the amount of 1.0 mil (one mil), for the construction, improvement and maintenance of public roads located in the township. The nature of the improvement to be made is such that a periodic redetermination of cost and renewal of the levy shall be made on an annual basis.

The Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to those withdisabilities planning to attend upon adequate notice to Heather Smith, Porter Township Clerk, in writing, or by calling the Township at (269) 624-4022.

Dated: May 10, 2024
Heather Smith, Clerk, Porter Township

PORTER TOWNSHIP, VAN BUREN COUNTY

NOTICE OF HEARING TO RENEW TOWNSHIP-WIDE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

FOR FIRE PROTECTION

The Porter Township Board, having previously established a township-wide Special Assessment District for the cost of fire motor vehicles, apparatus, equipment, housing and fire protection, **HEREBY sets a public hearing for Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at the Porter Township Hall, 88040 M-40 Highway, Lawton, Michigan.**

The Porter Township Board will be in session to discuss and hear comments which may be offered regarding the re-affirmation of the township-wide special assessment in the amount of 1.0 mil (one mil), for the cost and expenses of the fire motor vehicles, apparatus, equipment, housing and fire protection. The nature of the improvement to be made is such that a periodic redetermination of cost and renewal of the levy shall be made on an annual basis.

The Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to those with disabilities planning to attend upon adequate notice to Heather Smith, Porter Township Clerk, in writing, or by calling the Township at (269) 624-4022.

Dated: May 10, 2024
Heather Smith, Clerk, Porter Township

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Classifieds

• WANTED •

CLARK'S AUTO PARTS, INC. is buying cars, trucks & all metals for recycling. Lawrence, 674-4905 or 1-800-707-8650.

STANDING TIMBER. Top Michigan lumber manufacturer seeking landowners with 25 or more mature hardwood trees to sell. Qualityhardwoodsinc.com • 517-566-8061.

JURIGA CONTRACTING WANTED: JOURNEYMAN ELECTRICIAN
Paw Paw MI
Residential and Commercial
Please text or Call Tom at 269-492-4619

• SERVICES •

FISH FOR STOCKING MOST VARIETIES PONDS AND LAKES LAGGIS FISH FARM 269-628-2056 DAYS 269-624-6215 EVENINGS

GRANT DALY PAINTING: Interior/exterior residential, commercial, industrial. Great references & free estimates. Call 657-7893.

HAULING, CLEANING RECYCLING. Moving service. Right Quick Hauling. Dan Wydick, Dustin Wydick, Daniel Wydick, 423-8545. Serving since 1994.

FIELD PLUMBING & HEATING, INC. Services all brands of heating & cooling equipment in your home or business. 24/7 service for over 50 years, 269-674-3839.

BUYING JUNK CARS, trucks, scrap metal and farm machinery. Kalamazoo Metal Recyclers, 1525 King Highway, Kalamazoo. 269-381-1315.

BUDGET APPLIANCE SERVICE, 269-685-8902. Call us today for your appliance repair or service needs! Quality service at affordable prices.

HB HANDYMAN SERVICES IS LOOKING FOR WORK!

• SALES •

HUGE YARD SALE- Great variety. New New used collectibles and antiques. New ceiling fans, hand carts and more. Vintage jewelry, Coca Cola collectibles, ceramic crocks, many used items. 10801 50th St, Grand Junction. May 9,10,11,12. 8 to 6. Follow signs.

ESTATE SALE-Antiques, collectibles, furniture. Everything must go. All weekends, 35553 M-43, Paw Paw, 49079. 269-400-0516.

GARAGE SALE 26044 48th Ave on May 23-25, 9-5. Treadmill, sm. appliances, telescope, pictures, sm. winecooler, dish sets, glassware, vintage and decor items, depression glass, Christmas items.

YARD SALE Recliner, dishes, toys, heavy duty walker, misc merchandise, May 23-24, 8-5, 22780 East Mcgillen, Mattawan.

Memorial Day Barn Sale! Vintage and other Books, glassware, electronics, and more!
May 27, 28, 31
June 1
8AM - 5PM
22314 Banker, Centreville
Phone 269-257-1309

• AUCTION •

ALL SECURE SELF STORAGE will hold sale of abandoned property at a public sale pursuant in 540.521-570.527: Public Auction: 5/21/2024 at or after 9:30a.m. EST: 37404 W Red Arrow Highway Paw Paw: Anna Charles, 207, 213.

HELP WANTED
Host and food runners, must be able to work Fri and Sat nights.
APPLY AT BIG T, 155 N. MAIN, LAWTON.

NOW HIRING
Full & part time positions available for direct care staff. No experience necessary. All training provided.
Please call **269-628-9099**
to schedule an interview or apply online
cornerstoneafc.com

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(269) 998-6977

PRAIRIE VIEW STORAGE
STORAGE AUCTION
PUBLIC AUCTION on 6/08/2024 at 9:00 am **PRAIRIE VIEW STORAGE** located at 51350 CR 652, Mattawan, MI 49017, pursuant to 570.521-570.527, will hold a public sale of personal property belonging to the following tenants to the highest bidder.
Contents include household goods, tools, and misc.
1. Aaron Curtis
2. Meghan Overacker
3. Meghan Overacker
4. Robert Klein
5. Kyle Pierce
Cash payment due at sale. All sales subject to prior cancellation. Rules and regulations available at sale.

VILLAGE OF DECATUR
VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
ORDINANCE NO. 2024-001

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 8, ARTICLE IV OF THE VILLAGE OF DECATUR CODE OF ORDINANCES TO AMEND DEFINITIONS AND REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO RESIDENTIAL RENTAL UNITS

The Village of Decatur ordains:
Section 1. Amendment. Chapter 8, Article IV of the Village Code is amended to read in its entirety as follows:

Article IV
Rental Dwelling Units

Sec. 8-83. Title
This article shall be known and may be cited as the Village of Decatur Rental Housing Licensing Ordinance.

Sec. 8-84. Definitions.
The following definitions shall apply to the terms used in the provisions of this article:

A. **AGENT.** For the purposes of this article, the responsible local agent shall be an individual person who represents the owner and must have a place of residence in the state within 50 miles of the Village limits. The responsible local agent shall be designated by the owner as legally responsible for operating such premises in compliance with all the provisions of the Village codes and Ordinances. An owner may act as the responsible local agent, provided he or she resides in the state and within 50 miles of the Village limits. All official notices of the Village may be issued to the responsible local agent, and any notice so issued shall be deemed to have been issued upon the owner.
B. **BUILDING OFFICIAL.** The building official of the Village or his or her authorized representative charged with the administration and enforcement of the building code.
C. **BOARDING HOUSE.** A residential facility or building that offers lodging and boarding with shared common areas such as bathrooms and kitchens, to multiple individuals.
D. **GROUP HOMES.** A residential facility or building that provides a structured living environment for individuals who require specialized or supportive housing services. These residents may include but are not limited to individuals with disabilities, elderly persons, or those receiving rehabilitative care.
E. **CODE.** The International Property Maintenance Code, published by the International Code Council, Inc., or any other property maintenance code subsequently adopted by the Village Council of the Village of Decatur, Michigan.
F. **DWELLING UNIT.** A single unit providing complete independent living facilities for one or more persons, including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation. A dwelling unit for the purpose of this article shall also include the individual sleeping rooms or group of rooms in an apartment building, group home, boarding house, or other similar residential facility. Each room or group of rooms so occupied or to be occupied shall constitute a separate dwelling unit. For purposes of this article, dwelling unit does not include hospitals, nursing homes, convalescent homes, or hotels or motels licensed and inspected by the State of Michigan.
G. **RESIDENTIAL RENTAL UNIT.** Any non-owner occupied dwelling unit, or any dwelling unit or part thereof that is occupied pursuant to an oral or written rental or lease agreement or other valuable compensation for the purpose of residing therein.
H. **OWNER.** For purposes of this article, owner means an individual or legal entity holding title to a dwelling unit. This includes but is not limited to corporations, limited liability companies, partnerships, trusts, and other similar legal entities. It also encompasses the principals, managers, directors, trustees, or personal representatives within those entities who exercise control or management over the property.

Sec. 8-85. Purpose.
The purpose of this Ordinance is to protect, preserve and promote the public health, safety and general welfare of the residents of the Village of Decatur, Michigan, and inhabitants in residential rental units; and to encourage the maintenance of residential rental units by requiring the licensure and inspection of same to insure compliance of said residential rental units with any property maintenance or existing structures code in effect and adopted by the Village of Decatur, Michigan at the time of said inspection. This Ordinance is adopted pursuant to the authority provided in MCL 125.525 et seq.

Sec. 8-86. License Required.

A. An owner or agent shall not allow a dwelling unit to be used as a residential rental unit without first obtaining a license as provided under the provisions of this article. The registration fee shall be due at the time of registration or by July 1st of each year after the unit has been registered.
B. Application for such licenses shall be made on forms provided by the Village of Decatur, Michigan, which shall include the following information:
   1. The address of the parcel of land upon which a residential rental unit is located, and its property tax identification number.
   2. The name, address, and telephone number of the owner of such dwelling unit.
   3. The name, address and telephone number of the local agent or manager charged with collecting rent and/or maintaining the residential rental unit.
   4. The number and types of units within the building in which the residential rental unit is located (dwelling units or sleeping rooms).
   5. Name(s) of current tenant.
C. Residential rental units required to be licensed pursuant to this article shall comply with the following:
   1. All owners and/or agents of existing residential rental units shall file the Annual Rental Registration Form by July 1st of each year.
   2. All newly constructed residential rental units shall be licensed prior to the issuance of the certificate of occupancy by the Village.
   3. It shall be the responsibility of the owners and/or agents of existing rental units to notify the Village of Decatur and Building Official when a change in occupancy and or use occurs. Upon notification of such change in occupancy and or use occurs, the Building Official reserves the right to reinspect the existing rental as deemed necessary.
   4. A residential rental unit which is sold, transferred, or conveyed shall be relicensed by the new owner within 30 days of the date of the deed, land contract, or other instrument of conveyance with the Village. All documents of conveyance, including land contracts, shall be recorded with the Van Buren County Register of Deeds Office and a copy of the same or a memorandum of land contract shall be provided to the Village.
   5. All existing nonrental dwellings which are converted to residential rental units shall be licensed, inspected, and certified prior to the date on which the property is first occupied as a residential rental unit.
D. Rental inspections shall be schedule on a biennial basis (every two (2) years). The 2-year time period shall start once the residential rental unit has passed the first inspection (subject to issued certificate of compliance) after the date of this article. The Building Official also reserves the right to extend the biennial inspection time period with prior approval from the Village of Decatur.

Sec. 8-87. Compliance With Ordinances.
No license to operate a rental unit shall be issued unless the residential rental unit complies with all the ordinances and codes of the Village.

Sec. 8-88. Inspections.
Residential rental units shall be inspected to ensure compliance of said residential rental units with the International Property Maintenance Code, or any other property maintenance code subsequently adopted by the Village Council of the Village of Decatur, Michigan, or any rules, regulations, laws, or housing codes of the State of Michigan. Where six (6) or fewer residential rental units exist upon any given parcel, same shall be inspected by the Building Official bi-annually. Where more than six (6) residential rental
units exist upon any given parcel a minimum of seven (7) dwelling units, plus ten percent (10%) of the dwelling units over six (6), shall be inspected by the Building Official every year. For regular scheduled inspections as hereinbefore provided, the Building Official shall give written notice of the date and time of said inspection to the owner or local agent, mailed by first class mail, on or before ten (10) days prior to said inspection date. In addition, said Building Official shall inspect residential rental units, upon reasonable
notice as required in any property maintenance code adopted by the Village Council of the Village of Decatur, under any of the following circumstances:

A. Upon receipt of a written, executed, and dated complaint based upon the personal knowledge of an owner, occupant, or other individual, that the premises are in violation of this article.
B. Upon receipt of a written report or complaint, or a referral from the police department, or other public agencies or departments, indicating that the premises is in violation of this article.
C. If an exterior survey of the parcel gives the Building Official probable cause to believe that the residential rental units are in violation of this article.
D. Upon receipt of information by the Building Official that a residential rental unit is not registered with the Village of Decatur, Michigan as required by this article.

Sec. 8-89. Issuance of Certificate of Compliance.
After the initial inspection, if the residential rental unit is found to be in compliance with the rules, regulations, laws, and ordinances of the Village of Decatur, Michigan, and/or the State of Michigan, the Building Official shall issue a Certificate of Compliance in the name of the owner.

Sec. 8-90. Procedure Where Inspection Discloses Violations.

A. Where an inspection by the Building Official discloses a violation of the International Property Maintenance Code or any other property maintenance code adopted by the Village Council of the Village of Decatur, Michigan, or the rules, regulations and laws or housing codes of the State of Michigan, the Building Official shall issue all necessary notices as provided in said code(s) to ensure compliance with said code's requirements.
B. A temporary Certificate of Compliance may be issued when any violation does not constitute a hazard to the health or safety of those who may occupy the premises. Said temporary Certificate of Compliance may be revoked by the Building Official if the owner or his agent fails to correct the noted violation(s).
C. No residential rental unit shall be occupied unless a Certificate of Compliance has been issued by the Building Official.
D. In the event the owner or his agent is in the process of evicting an occupant and/or tenant from a residential rental unit which is in violation of the aforesaid article, then and in such an event, the owner thereof shall have a reasonable time to correct said violation after the eviction is completed, and said owner or his agent shall promptly notify the Building Official of the completion of said eviction.

Sec. 8-91. Fees.
Rental unit registration and inspection rates and charges shall be as set by resolution of the Village Council from time to time. The owner shall be responsible for notifying the Village of any change of address of either the owner or the responsible local agent.

A. In the event that an occupant of a residential rental unit or a private individual shall make a written complaint concerning a violation at a residential rental unit, the Village of Decatur, at its discretion, may require an inspection deposit in the amount of the anticipated inspection fee from said occupant or private individual. If the inspection, which was made as a result of said complaint, discloses no legitimate violation, then and in such an event the individual making such complaint shall be liable to the Village of Decatur for the aforesaid inspection fee, and said deposit shall be applied thereto, otherwise said deposit shall be refunded.
B. The Village of Decatur shall not release any information regarding the name address, or telephone number of any person who makes a written complaint concerning a violation at a residential rental unit, except: (a) by consent of the complainant; (b) pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act; or (c) by Court Order.

Sec. 8-92. Violations.
It shall be unlawful for a person to operate, maintain, or offer for occupancy, a residential dwelling unit in violation of this article. A person who violates this article shall be responsible for a municipal civil infraction, subject to payment of a civil fine not exceeding $500.00, plus costs and other sanctions authorized under Section 1-7, for each infraction. Each day that a violation continues shall be deemed a separate infraction.

Section 2. Superseding Effect. This ordinance supersedes and replaces Ord. No. 2023-02 in its entirety.
Section 3. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective either 20 days after adoption or upon publication, whichever occurs later.

YEAS: Beute, Jackson, Mead Jr., Pachner, Pelfrey, Elwaer
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: Benson
ABSENT: None

CERTIFICATION

As the duly appointed Clerk of the Village of Decatur, Van Buren County, Michigan, I certify this is a true and complete copy of an ordinance adopted by the Village Council at its meeting of May 6, 2024.

Megan Duncan, Village Clerk